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Jacob Ellis sworn in as Student Government Association president

JACOB BENNETT
Editor-in-chief



Dr. Chris Maggio swears in Jacob Ellis as SGA President. *Photo Submitted*

Junior Northwestern State University student Jacob Ellis was sworn in on Monday, April 30th as president of the school's Student Government Association. Ellis has been involved with SGA since his freshman year and has ambitious plans for the upcoming year.

"My platform is the student experience," Ellis told the Current Sauce the following day. "I want all students to have best experience they can have on this campus. That means implementing educational programming that benefits the students, that means bringing in public speakers that will teach and relate to the students. That also means making sure our technology in our classrooms are up to date and making sure the resources students have are adequate."

But it is not just the main campus in Natchitoches, Louisiana, that Ellis is making his priority.

"My Vice President and I, along with a few senators, went to both the Alexandria and Leesville campuses because we know we still represent them," Ellis said. "One of the things we're working on is doing a lot of programming and things like that for our satellite campuses just so that all NSU students, no matter what campus they're on, feel like they have a voice."

Ellis' predecessor Tre Nelson is confident in the man he's passed the torch to. "I've really given him a lot of tips and mentorship these past couple of months as we've gotten closer to the inauguration," Nelson said. "This past year, Jacob worked as one of my academic commissioners and he did a fantastic job. He got commissioner of the year, which is one of the biggest titles that we can give out in SGA."

Tyler Wright, the newly-elected SGA treasurer entering his third year with the organization, also pointed to Ellis' experience as commissioner as an indication of future success.

"I know Jacob has the competency to do the job," Wright said. "I've seen him do it. Everyone brings their own views and objectives to the office, and on behalf of the SGA, I'm really excited to serve under him."

Ellis, a 20-year-old business administration major, swore in at 6:00 on the evening of April 30th at the school's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. He described the occasion as a "humbling experience."

"It really made me stop and think about what it was I was doing and what my job would be as president," Ellis said. "I looked out in the crowd and saw all the people who were supporting me, people I would now lead, and it made me stop and realize that what I'm doing here is so much bigger than me."

Ellis' office is located on the first floor of NSU's Student Union building. He can be reached at 318-357-4335, his office number, or 318-532-1229, his cell phone number, or by email at jellis067345@nsula.edu.

Meet the connection coordinators



Photo by Zachary Breaux

Rowdy Burleson (left) and Mallory McConathy (right) are the 2018 Freshman Connection student coordinators. Their job is to mentor the 2018 Freshman Connectors while also ensuring that all the sessions run smoothly.

ROWDY

Q: If you could be Dr. Maggio for a day, what would you do?
A: I would cancel class on Mondays. Call it... Maggio Monday.

Q: What's something you wish you knew when you were a freshman?
A: I wish I knew the importance of staying on track with the academic curriculum to graduate on time without overloading yourself.

Q: What's the best advice you can give freshmen in one sentence?
A: Stay on top of your grades because without academics you can't enjoy all the fun that comes along with college.

Q: How has NSU developed you as a person and as a leader?
A: NSU has given me many leadership opporunities that I wouldn't have otherwise which will help me to be successful after college.

MALLORY

Q: If you could be Dr. Maggio for a day, what would you do?
A: I would film an episode of "Cribs" at the President's house.

Q: What's something you wish you knew when you were a freshman?
A: I wish I knew that it was okay to change my major and drop a class.

Q: What's the best advice you can give freshmen in one sentence?
A: Get involved in something that interests you no matter how nervous you may be about it.

Q: How has NSU developed you as a person and as a leader?
A: NSU has given me the confidence and skills to be successful through many leadership opportunities, while also instilling determination to succeed in my future endeavors.

Ask Vic

Q: Hey Vic! I didn't know anyone coming to NSU so I was paired with a random roommate. I'm worried we won't get along and I'll be stuck with someone I can't stand for the whole year. What should I do?

A: First and foremost, you have to keep in mind that they're probably just as worried about you being a weirdo as you are them. Be chill, be tidy, maybe offer to study with them—and try to be the best roommate that you can be. Remember the Golden Rule. If you follow it, they'll be more likely to follow it too.

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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Brewery to open in Natchitoches this fall

JACOB BENNETT
Editor-in-Chief

Natchitoches, Louisiana, is about to gain yet another cultural hotspot in the form of Cane River Brewing Co., slated to open in late fall.

Justin Krouse and Cade Gentry, who are friends from their college days at Northwestern, co-own the company. The two of them have long wanted to go into business together and decided upon a brewery after noticing a lack of craft beer in the area, despite Natchitoches being one of the highest visited cities in the state.

The two have been working on the brewery for four years.

"There's been all kinds of things getting in the way of opening [the brewery]," Krouse said. "Getting investors, getting approval from the city, finding the right location. It's just something that takes time."

The brewery will be located in the 1920s-era cotton factory on Mill Street, with Chaplin Lake separating it from NSU's campus. The building is currently undergoing remodeling to prepare it for the public.

"We knew from the beginning we wanted to keep as much of the original architecture as we could," Gentry said of the cotton gin building. "The whole exterior of the building needed to be re-sheathed due to all of the holes in the aluminum, but all of the original interior beams were able to be kept. As for the interior design of the brewery taproom, everyone will have to just wait and see."

The town has never had a business like this before, and one student beleves it is long past due.

"It's about damn time," said Haley Tucker, a senior at Northwestern. "Previously, if you wanted to go to a brewery, you had to go all the way to Shreveport. Now Natchitoches is going to have its own and it's something we can all be proud of."

According to Gentry, Cane River Brewing will offer "two to three core beers, a few seasonal beers, and a wide variety of limited release beers."

Beer will be approximately five dollars per pint. No student discounts will be offered.



Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa
Construction workers replace exterior of brewery site.

New parking lot being built in front of Café Demon

JESSICA GRAY
PR Manager

It turns out there is one downside to Café Demon's booming business: customers are running out of places to park. That's about to change, though, as a new parking lot is currently undergoing construction outside the coffee shop so that Northwestern students and other members of the Natchitoches community will have a more convenient place to park.

Café Demon shares a building with the Watson Library and is located on the outskirts of campus along University Parkway.

The library has a parking lot of its own, and while the café has a smaller one directly outside, it's only accessible to faculty and staff, creating an inconvenience for customers who just want to stop for a quick cup of joe.

"I think the parking lot is going to be great for access to Café Demon," said Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet 2018 Aly Jacobs, who also works at the Watson Library. "It's going to allow many people of the community as well as the students to easily grab a coffee."

Jennifer Kelly, Director of Auxiliary Services, says that the current cost of the project is $156,900. The lot has been funded exclusively by the auxiliary budget and does not come from student fees. She said that talk of a new parking lot began as soon as they opened Café Demon and highlighted the accessible nature the lot will have for people with disabilities.

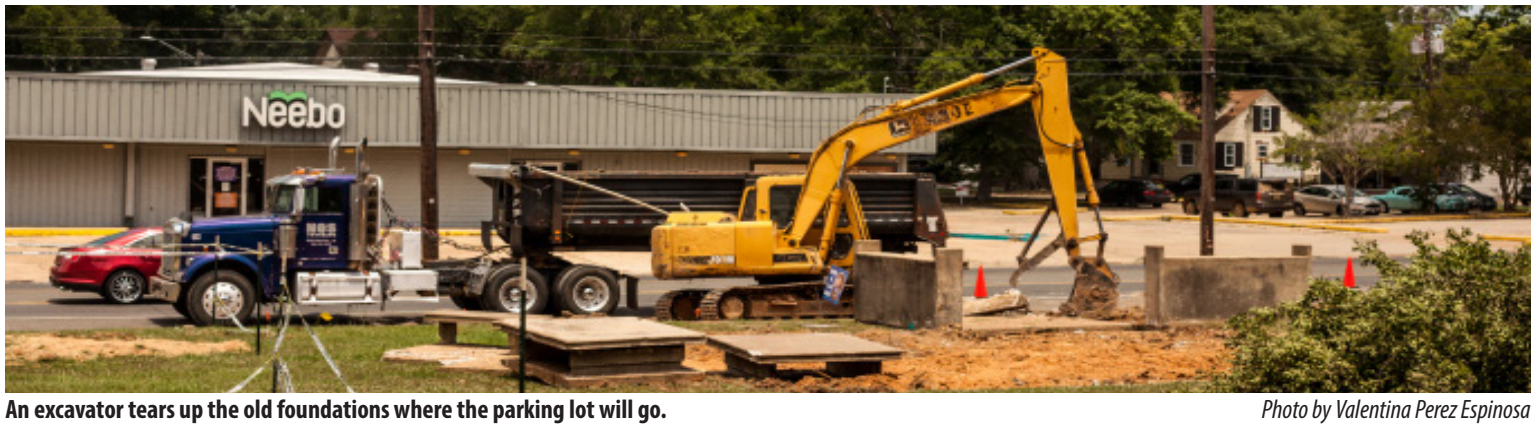
David Wohletz, Director of Facility Services, gave more insight on the dimensions of the project. It will be three lanes in and out, and in the center, there will be a 36-foot area that the school hopes one day be the home of a garden, fountain, or other landscape feature.

"[The] biggest thing about the parking lot is that the benches that were there were not being utilized," Wohletz said. "This parking lot will give a more updated feature to the library."

While students and faculty alike may be looking forward to the lot, not everyone agrees.

"I'm not a big fan of breaking things down to make parking lots," said a supervisor at Café Demon who requested anonymity. "They tore down five trees. I'm not okay with that."

The lot is projected to be completed by late June or early July, plenty of time before the fall 2018 semester.



An excavator tears up the old foundations where the parking lot will go. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa*



Graduates await their diploma. *Photo by Josh McDaniels*

NSU adds over 900 students to its alumni total this semester

SAMANTHA CLARK
Managing Editor

On May 11th, 2018, 906 graduates became part of Northwestern State University's on-going group of distinguished alumni who are making advancements in their respective fields across the country.

Graduation day was comprised of morning and afternoon services, with special aspects accompanying each ceremony.

The morning program included the presentation of a posthumous degree to Orlando Enrique Gonzales Trucco, a student who passed away two weeks prior to graduation. During the afternoon program, the Class of 1968 received a special second diploma, and commisioned officers took their oath.

In an open letter, NSU president Chris Maggio congratulated the graduates and stressed the historic ranking they were entering.

"You are now part of a special group of more than 75,000 Northwestern alumni in all 50 states," Maggio told them. He went on to say, "I know your future is bright as you seek to make a positive difference in your chosen field."

The graduates with the highest grade point average from each respective college sat on stage during the commencements. Former Lady of the Bracelet Maria Rome was shocked to learn that she held the highest GPA in the Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development out of 147 graduates.

"I felt honored to receive that recognition," Rome said. "Leading in my college and sitting on the stage during commencement was surreal. I always imagined myself sitting in the crowd, excitedly waiting to receive my well-deserved diploma, but never did I imagine I would be on the stage. It was very cool to say the least."

Katie Buttner graduated cum laude, an accolade given to graduates earning a 3.50-3.69 GPA, and received her Bachelor of Science in psychology. She will be attending the University of West Florida in the fall to pursue a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational psychology.

Buttner advises incoming freshman to "be as involved as you can and work as hard as you can to make the most of your college experience."

While NSU offers many extra-curricular activities to be a part of, Rome hopes students remember to keep school at the forefront.

"[Students should] take advantage of the library, the tutors and the professors," Rome said. "NSU's dedication to student success is one reason I love this university, and if students take advantage of all of the academic opportunities allotted to them they will truly be successful!"

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DR. MAGGIO *reflects on* FIRST YEAR AS PRESIDENT, LOOKS TO FUTURE

KEATOR POLEMAN
Associate Editor

As another school year ends, students may take time to think about how their year went. Some of them will look back with fond memories; others, with regret. But what about the staff and faculty?

Chris Maggio, president of Northwestern State, is going into his second year in office. To mark the occasion, Maggio has shared the highs and lows of the past year, and what he plans for the future of the university.

"It's been an enjoyable first," Maggio told The Current Sauce. "I have enjoyed [seeing] the growth of Northwestern State University and the involvement of our students."

The president mentioned many highs occurred in his first year. He said that he has seen students "across the spectrum" become more involved.

Maggio said student engagement is "visible." He also spoke highly on the "record year" of private giving by alumni. He said they do this by "coming to events, by recommending students to the university and by giving dollars."

As for the lows, President Maggio only mentioned there was a little frustration in trying to get funding for programs like TOPS and Go Grants.

Looking to the future, Maggio talked about bringing new academic programs to NSU. Some of the new programs proposed are a concentration in cyber security with CIS, a master's degree program in CIS, and a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Dance.

One project the president is pushing for is the creation of a new academic building, what he stressed as a "new Kyser Hall." He stressed that the school would not do away with the present Kyser Hall.



Photo by Karalee Scouten

"We have a lot of conceptual plans but nothing [concrete,] so again we want student input, we want faculty input," said Maggio on the proposed building. There are many ideas of where the building would be, though no final decision has been made.

Strategic budgeting was enacted at the university this year. The president said that every member of the staff and faculty was able to submit a proposal for the budget. Small projects and big projects alike were proposed, about $2.1 million worth of proposals altogether. A committee of faculty and staff found that over $1 million of the proposals were able to be funded.

Another project will be overlaying Caspari Street.

"We'll start down by the track around the [Baptist Collegiate Ministry], we'll come up as far as the intersection [in the middle of campus] and then we hope to finish it out over the next year to University Parkway," Maggio said.

The overlay, a $500,000 project, will also include a parking lot by South Hall.

Other projects include upgrades to class rooms in Bienvenue Hall, resurfacing the tennis courts, and putting in an elevator at the TEC building. A stage at the Iberville Green is another project that the president hopes to be accomplished this year.

New coach, team anticipate upcoming football season

JACOB BENNETT
Editor-in-Chief

Northwestern State University has found a new football coach in Brad Laird, and he's wasting no time whipping the team into shape.

"We're all feeling good coming off of spring ball and we've gotten a lot accomplished in all three phases," Laird said, referring to offense, defense and special teams. "There's a lot of excitement as we look forward to the summer, where we'll continue the strength and conditioning we did in the spring."

Laird, who was promoted in November of last year, previously served Northwestern as associate head coach and defensive coordinator. Of particular accomplishment was Laird's restoration of the "Purple Swarm" brand for the Demons' defense, which has struggled in recent years but showed signs of improvement especially in the last few games of the 2017 season.

"Brad has many assets that make him an outstanding choice to lead his coach staff and over 100 student-athletes," said athletics director Greg Burke, who hired Laird, in a press release last November.

"[He has a] perspective on our football program gained over the past year which gives tremendous head start as he assumes leadership of the program," he went on to say.

It seems like the team feels the same way.

"He expects a lot from us in everything we do," said tight end Tyler O'Donoghue. "He won't let you get away with less than you're capable of. He demands hard work, but still has fun."

Parker Pastorello, a punter, reflected similarly on the coach's leadership and work ethic.

"Coach Laird is a wonderful leader for our football team," he said. "He gets to know every player personally and pushes each one of us to be great on and off the field."

Laird succeeds Jay Thomas, who was let go at the end of his five-year contract. The new coach does not feel restrained by the past, however.

"With new coaches comes change," Laird said. "We have new coordinators, there's new schemes and new terminology, so things will be different."

Hailed as "one of the best players to ever wear a Demon uniform" by Burke, Laird was a quarterback in his college days at Northwestern. He went on to spend the next 20 years coaching both high school and college teams before returning to work at his alma mater in 2017.



Brad Laird speaks at a recent event. *Photo by Chris Reich*



"Interactive display coming soon." *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa*



Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa

Two displays from the N-Club Hall of Fame.

Athletics department revitalizes NSU Hall of Fame

MATTHEW CRAIG
Reporter

Fifty years ago, the highest honor for Northwestern State University athletes was created in Prather coliseum: the N-Club Hall of Fame. Now, the athletics department has decided to give their Hall of Fame center some new renovations.

The N-Club Hall of Fame is the association of former athletic letter winners at NSU. By achieving excellence at NSU and beyond, the distinguished service award and honorary letter winners' recognitions honor extended remarkable impact and achievement by NSU athletes, alumni, or those associated with NSU athletics.

The purpose of the NSU N-Club Hall of Fame is to provide an opportunity for NSU letter winners to continue their relationship with NSU athletics and have lasting recognition.

Dr. Haley Taitano, Associate Athletic Director for External Relations, was given the opportunity to bring the new N-Club Hall of Fame to life.

Taitano explained why the old Hall of Fame had to be remodeled and what people can expect with the new look.

"We were running out of space with the old model because of the amount of pictures and awards we had," she said. "This new display gives the Hall of Fame a cleaner, fresher and updated look."

The new updated exhibit has displays featuring prominent inductees, and will have a touchscreen where visitors can type in someone's name and view their action shots, videos and pictures.

"The display will be more informative and do more service to the Hall of Fame members," Taitano said. "We're giving [the athletes] what they deserve."

The renovations were done with donated money from former NSU athletes.

The official revealing of the display will be at the Legend Gala on August 26th.



De'Shalyn Jones competes at the Southland Conference. *Photo by Chris Reich*

NSU Demons excel at Southland Conference, prepare for Tampa

ANSON BALLOW
Sports Editor

Attributing to the overall success of Northwestern athletics this spring, the NSU track and field program concluded their regular season competition in San Antonio, Texas, at the 2018 Southland Conference Outdoor Championships.

Held on May 4-6 , the meet fielded the 13-member schools of the Southland Conference, and was a culmination of the program's growing success.

Hosted at the Gayle and Tom Benson Stadium by the University of Incarnate Word, the Lady Demons placed third, scoring 111 points. The Demons placed fifth, scoring 78 points.

Multiple Demons shattered personal, meet, and school records, including:

- Reigning four-time gold medalist De'Shalyn Jones, who continued her dominance in the 100 and 200 meter sprints. Along with fellow Lady Demons, she also dominated the 4x100 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay.
- Junior Micah Larkins continued his national dominance in the 100 meter dash, winning gold by clocking in at 10.12. He, along with standout senior teammate Amir James and other Demons, ran the 4x100 meter relay in 39.53, shattering the meet record.
- Senior Joshua Wilkins wrapped up his best season of his career, placing third in the 1500 meter run, running 3:49.
- Representing the success of the talented throwing program was Collin Milton, fourth in the javelin, 203-00.
- Lady Demon 3000 meter steeplechaser Jacqueline Rushford ran a whopping 11:21.57, placing sixth and shattering the school record.

"There were a lot of great individual performances, and we had a record number of athletes qualify for NCAA Regionals in Tampa," said senior long jumper David Moritz. "Despite our outstanding individual performances, we set really high expectations for our team performance that we didn't quite reach."

20 individuals qualified for the NCAA East Preliminary Round Track and Field Championships, each athlete having to rank in the top 48 of their respective events. The representatives from NSU include 11 men and nine women.

This underscores the positive trend in the success of NSU's track and field program, topping the previous record of 17 athletes just two years ago.

The preliminaries will take place May 24-26 in Tampa, Florida, hosted by the University of South Florida. The top 12 finishers in each event will qualify for Nationals in Eugene, Arizona, June 6-9.

Softball season ends with tournament loss to Southeastern

MATT VINES
NSU Assistant Director of Communications

Senior pitcher Micaela Bouvier valiantly rebounded [May 9, 2018] in what turned out to be her final career start, but the Northwestern State offense couldn't solve Southeastern's

Lacey Hill as the No. 7 seed Lady Demons fell 6-0 to the No. 4 seed Lady Lions.

NSU (28-25) went 1-2 in the Southland Conference Tournament, beating No. 6 seed Abilene Christian in the single-elimination round 4-3 before dropping a 12-5 decision to No. 3 seed McNeese.

After Southeastern scored six runs in the first three innings, Bouvier settled in to finish her career with four scoreless innings.

Bouvier retired 11 of SLU's final 13 batters in the last four innings, working around an error and a single.

The senior finished her season 14-11 after allowing six runs (five earned) on eight hits with four strikeouts. Bouvier went 1-1 in the SLC Tournament to complete her career record at 43-29, which ranks in the top 10 in wins and career winning percentage all-time at NSU.

"I really tried to go out there and lay it all out there for my team," said Bouvier, who's overcome multiple injuries throughout her career and a restructured shoulder as a senior. "Whatever was thrown my way, I pushed through and played for this team.

"These girls will continue to put in the work, and things will go their way as they get more experience in the tournament. I've had some things thrown my way and it didn't always go the way I wanted, but it was about coming back and helping this team. I knew I wanted that ball in my hand."

Bouvier held the door open for an offense known for scoring in chunks, but Southeastern's Hill held NSU to just three four runners.

"We loved the seniors we had this year in Bouvier and Sidney Salmans, and they left it all out there and did everything they could," said NSU coach Donald Pickett. "I wish we could have finished better than that, but I didn't feel we came out aggressively and ready to play early in this game. We were a step slow."

Southeastern scored one in the first inning on a Rebecca Skains sacrifice fly. Skains hit a fly ball to NSU's Kaitlyn St. Clair, who twisted her foot in the outfield turf, falling down to allow the runner the score. St. Clair didn't return to the game.

The Lady Lions put more pressure on NSU with a three-run second inning. After an Ella Manzer solo home run put SLU up 2-0, the Lady Lions hung two more runs on the board with RBI singles from Maddie Edmonston (2-for-4) and Kinsey Nicholls.

SLU scored a run after a hit-by-pitch and error followed by a Manzer RBI single.

The Lady Lions' aggressiveness factored into NSU's three errors, three stolen bases and a few extra bases taken on batted balls.

NSU catcher Emma Hawthorne reached base in the third inning after getting plunked, but she was stranded at third base.

The Lady Demons' best chance to score a chunk of runs came in the fourth inning after a Julie Rawls walk and a Madelyn Matt single. But Hill recorded the final two outs to keep NSU scoreless.

NSU's only other base runner came after Hayley Barbazon singled with two outs in the seventh inning.

Southeastern won all four meetings against NSU this season.

The Lady Demons made their second straight SLC Tournament appearance and its fifth in six seasons.

Its 28-25 record is the sixth winning season in the last eight campaigns.

Fellow senior Sidney Salmans, who missed the last three weeks of the season with a broken thumb, finished her career sixth all-time in runs scored with 125 after 25 runs this season.

Salmans, a second-team All-Southland Conference selection in the outfield, is joined by Cayla Jones (first team) and St. Clair (third team) on the all-conference squads.

Bouvier and outfielder Julie Rawls were honorably mentioned.

Jones, who was a finalist for SLC Freshman of the Year, and Rawls tied for the team lead with 10 home runs and 36 RBIs each.

Both were offensive catalysts for a team that led the Southland Conference at 11-4, only to drop nine of its last 12 regular season games and 11 of its last 15 overall.

"We have to mature in how we approach everything. "That's the biggest thing, to be consistent throughout.

"We didn't handle failure the best we could. We do have some young players, but a lot of them had a lot of games under their belt. It's time for us to develop a little bit better and have the right mentality."

NSU started eight freshmen and sophomores regularly to pair with veteran pitchers Bouvier and junior Mikayla Brown.

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NSU choir competes internationally, visits local landmarks

ANNA BIRBIGLIA
Reporter

At the end of the spring 2018 semester, Northwestern State University's choir students were packing their bags, but they weren't preparing to go home for the summer as most other students were. Instead, their destination was Budapest, Hungary, where the Chamber Choir and Lyric Women's Chorus would represent NSU in the city's international choral competition.

The competition was held May 18-22. On May 20, the choir competed in the Mixed Choir Grand Prix, which resulted in the women's choir winning their division and Chamber given nomination awards for the mixed and sacred categories.

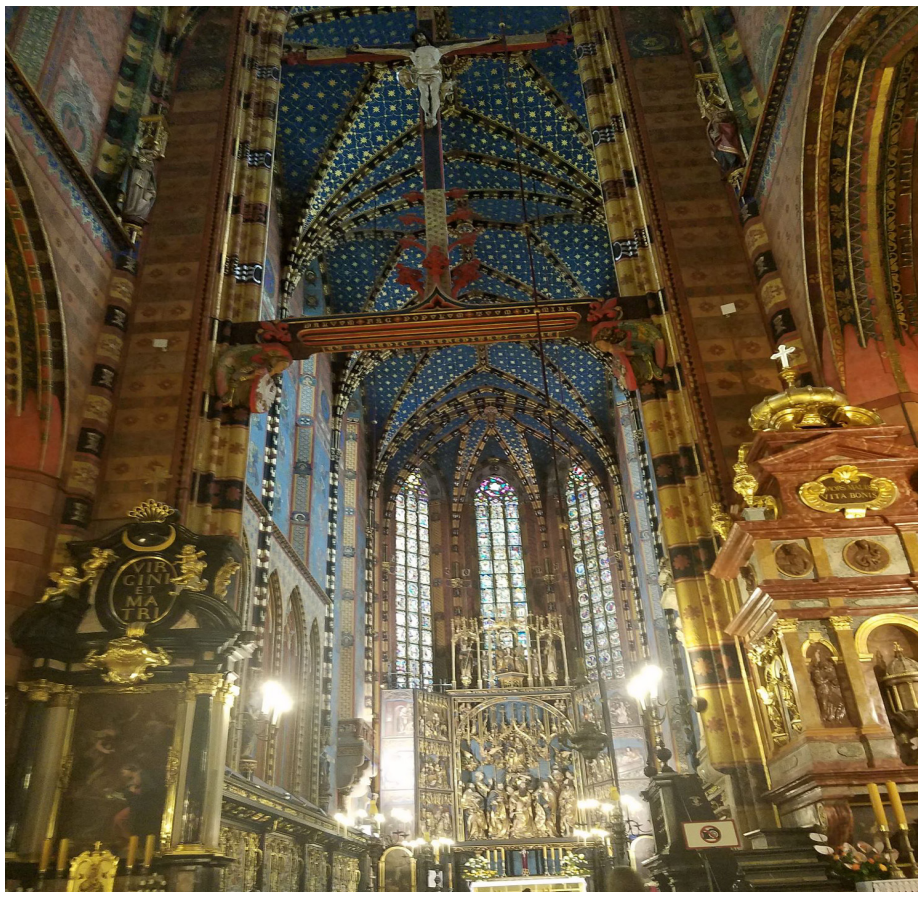
The trip lasted a total of 12 days. When they weren't competing, the choirs got the chance to visit and perform at other historical landmarks.

Their first stop was in Krakow, Poland, where they performed a concert with the Samford University Choir at St. Mary's Basilica.

"We wanted to absorb new cultures and experience new places," said Women's Chorus member Theresa Sharp. "I'm personally hoping this experience will help to better appreciate and discover the world around me."

During a tour of Auschwitz in which they saw a memorial to the Holocaust, Sharp said the students were "overwhelmed with compassion" and took time to sing "Mizpah," a Hebrew prayer, in honor of the lives lost in World War II.

The students were led by their choir director, Dr. Nicolaus B. Cummins, and are the first of NSU's choirs to compete internationally.



St. Mary's Basilica in Karkow, where the choir performed. *Photo by Aaron Rogers*



CAPA members plan trip to Germany

ANNA BIRBIGLIA
Reporter

This summer, thirteen students of Northwestern's Department of Creative and Performing Arts will be furthering their studies in Kiefersfelden, Germany. The students will be training in the International Performing Arts Institute's musical theatre program, which runs July 1-22.

Every year, Bruce Earnest, one of the IPAI staff members, opens auditions for any interested theatre student. Those selected to participate are given notice within the week of their audition. The program admits students in three categories: musical theatre/opera, teaching and directing.

Dr. Corey Trahan, Associate Professor of Theatre at NSU and part of the IPAI's administrative staff, is taking an active role in the foreign program.

"I will teach voice lessons for the musical theatre participants, acting for the opera program participants, direct several scenes for concerts and prepare the musical theatre artists for agent auditions in Hamburg," Trahan said.

Senior theatre major Emma Rivet is excited to be pushed outside of her comfort zone.

"[The Germany trip] is an opportunity to learn and grow in a nontraditional setting with professionals in my field who have done or are doing things I want to do in the future," Rivet said.

Attendees are expected to participate in dance and acting classes, private voice lessons and rehearsals every day.

Recent graduate Maddie Fry, who will be returning to the program for a second time, called it an "extremely intimidating but rewarding experience."

The classes help the performers learn more about their craft and even their vocal anatomy. During the program, the IPAI staff reviews all their headshots, resumes and repertoire.

Later, the students will participate in what is called an "intensive" in Hamburg, Germany, where they will audition for prominent European casting partners of the IPAI.

Dr. Trahan is excited for his students to get to work.

"IPAI gives the students a chance to work on their craft outside of an academic environment," he said. "It is my hope that they discover what makes them unique as an artist, take stock of what they do well and make a plan for what needs work."



Bennett attends March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C. *Photo by Kip Patrick*

We need a new approach to the gun debate

JACOB BENNETT
Editor-in-Chief

I'm going to assume something about you. I'm going to assume that you, no matter what your beliefs are on anything else, want the trend of mass shootings in the United States to stop.

Think about that. This is a desire shared by virtually all Americans, and yet we allow the conversation surrounding the subject to devolve into hateful mud-slinging.

Take, for example, something a friend of mine tweeted out following the school shooting in Santa Fe, Texas, on May 18 of this year.

She said, "I'm sorry, but if you talked or posted at all today about advocating for the Second Amendment or concealed carry, you're a piece of shit."

This is a problematic way of thinking, even though she raises a good point. Responding to a high school shooting that happened mere hours before with talk of love for your guns or how wrong the liberals are is deeply inappropriate, and if you do it, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.

At the same time, I believe calling someone a "piece of shit" for doing so is flat-out false and dehumanizing. It contributes to the breakdown of both our democracy and sense of togetherness as a nation.

Thus, I urge every reader to prioritize empathy moving forward. This will not simply promote unity, but help us to see our shared humanity and the merits in each other's arguments, making it more likely to actually solve the problems that plague our nation.

The Declaration of Independence proclaims that every citizen possesses the inalienable rights of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." In the gun debate, liberals emphasize life; conservatives focus on liberty.

When liberals push for government action on guns, they have in mind the children who were gunned down in what is supposed to be a safe and academic environment. This group believes that freedom and security can be balanced without sacrificing either.

When conservatives boldly stand up for the Second Amendment and push back against gun control, in their mind, they are defending liberty. They are preventing the evil of tyrannical government from gaining any foothold.

These are the things we must keep in mind moving forward. When we allow differing viewpoints to prevent us from getting along, we do a disservice to each other and to our country as a whole. We must rise above this dangerous trend.

At the end of the day, whether we like it or not, we are all on the same team. Let's act like it.



Why NSU is the right choice

Rebekah Aultman
Reporter

The last thing my parents wanted to hear was that their baby girl decided to be a Demon. Northwestern State University made me an offer I could not refuse, so I guess you could say I sold my soul to this place. The decision to attend NSU completely changed my life and has helped mold me into the person I am today.

When I was deciding which colleges to apply for, NSU was one near and dear to my heart from the very beginning. In high school, I was able to watch my eldest brother shine on the baseball diamond as a Demon. I was impressed by my brother's experience at this university and the commitment the university has to ensuring all students achieve and succeed.

This success is prioritized by all of NSU's departments. NSU is home to over 20 outstanding academic programs as well as an honors college. The Department of Student Activities and Organizations at NSU supports more than 100 organizations accommodating the diverse interest of all students.

NSU is committed to providing students with a unique, challenging, and supportive academic environment. This commitment begins with the First Year Experience and connects students with the people, programs, and resources necessary to provide a strong foundation. Through this program, NSU has been able to better connect students with resources to help them succeed.

I found my path because of NSU. These programs have made the difference in my life. Students should not come to NSU to get a degree and leave. Students should come to NSU to receive an education, life experiences, and the opportunity to grow as individuals.

There are a lot of "good" colleges in Louisiana, but students deserve more than "good." Students deserve a university that is dedicated to one goal: yours. Now that you know what NSU is all about, do you have what it takes become a Demon?

the Current Sauce

Vol.104 - Issue #2 — www.currentsauce.com — August 29, 2018



Northwestern State Marketplace overflows with vehicles. *Photo by Jacob Bennett.*

Students scramble to cross University Parkway

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

With the beginning of a new semester, safety concerns are being made about students crossing the street from Watson Library to Northwestern State Marketplace. University Parkway is well known for being a busy intersection.

University Parkway is a state highway and therefore falls under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

"It's a state highway coming through there, and the state actually owns the land that Northwestern is on, so the state is l heavily involved," Mayor Lee Posey said in regard to whether it is a state or city issue. "I think it's something we're all concerned about."

The mayor said there "are plans to talk with DOTD and do whatever we can to make it safe."

A request has been made to meet with the DOTD, according to Posey.

NSU President Chris Maggio said that the university wants to work with state officials to "see what might be possible" in regard to what can be done to help with the "foot traffic."

Some NSU students opened up about their thoughts on the situation.

Ashley Russell, a student at NSU, said that a walkway is needed and that "this is really dangerous."

"They've had this in the works for a while, so whoever was on it didn't do their job," Russell said when asked what she thinks of the situation.

Ashante Knox, another student, said that "it's not too bad" but that she still street.

"I feel like that there should be crossing guards, but I guess that's not really possible with the way the traffic works," Knox said.

The Marketplace officially opened on Aug. 16.

Chick-fil-A Express to open in Marketplace this fall

Brian Jordan
Reporter

NSU is about to become home to Chick-fil-A. That is, if the students can survive the wait.

While the first half of Northwestern State Marketplace, the Campus Corner, opened its doors on Aug. 16, students craving for Chick-fil-A will have to wait a while longer as no set date to open has been announced, but is aiming to opens its doors on homecoming week.

"The students really voiced their opinion about wanting a Chick-fil-A on campus," Student Government Association President Jacob Ellis said. "SGA brings the students' concerns and needs to the administration, and I think the student voice got loud enough to where the administration would do something."

The restaurant will actually be a Chick-fil-A Express, meaning it will lack a drive-thru and any specialty offers that a main Chick-fil-A franchise restaurant may have. It will, however, serve a full breakfast and lunch menu.

The project began in the 2018 fall semester as NSU President Chris Maggio responded to student demand by announcing last semester the plans to bring the bookstore and Chick-fil-A together.

"Through a unique opportunity, the NSU Foundation purchased the old campus bookstore across from Watson Library, where Café DeMon is already located," Maggio said. "Across the street seemed the perfect fit for not only a new bookstore but a new retail food outlet as well."

The investment was funded by the NSU Foundation, and the cost of the entire project is projected to be "a little over a million dollars," said Drake Owens, assistant vice-president for external affairs. This includes the construction of almost 50 new parking spots around the store to accommodate the public.

"We decided if we that if offered all these services and put it in a brand new building, it would really create more of a campus feel to it than [by] just selling books," Owens said.

While there are traffic concerns, NSU police should be on scene periodically to help direct traffic, and there have been talks of a catwalk going from Watson Library to the Northwestern State Marketplace. Owens said right now that's it's "just talk."

"The first step is finishing the project," Owens said. "Afterwards you'll probably see one of those cables to count traffic and then we'll have a conversation to address any traffic issues after the project is finished."

University Police Blotter

8-17-18
Threat - Physical Plant

8-19-18
Drug Law Violation - Lot 25

8-21-18
Theft - Unknown

8-21-18
Loud Music - University Columns

8-22-18
Theft from Vehicle - Green Space Parking

8-22-18
Telephone Harrasement - Student Services

8-22-18
Resisting an Officer - South Jefferson

8-23-18
Hit and Run - Central Ave

8 -24- 18
Theft - Kyser Hall

8-24-18
Fight - Turpin Stadium

8-24-18
Disturbance - Kappa Sigma House

8-25-18
Bike Theft - University Place 2

8-26-18
Disturbance - South Jefferson

Academic Advising finds new home at Watson Library

Rebekah Aultman
Contributing Writer

Over the past few years, Watson Library has become home to Café Demon, the Testing Center and the Academic Success Center—and now the Academic Advising Center is getting in on the fun.

The Academic Advising Center serves primarily general studies and nursing majors. Steve Hicks, Director of Academic Advising, says that they advise about 1,000 students during the normal academic year.

The center is additionally charged with teaching University Studies to freshmen. According to Ashley Frost, Graduate Assistant for the Academic Advising Center, these classes are crucial and help "get [the freshmen] the information that they need [for] basically the rest of their college time."

The center was initially located in Kyser Hall for 15 years, but was relocated temporarily for three years to the Family and Consumer Science Building. During this time, the center saw a slight decrease in seeing students for face-to-face advising.

The center was also faced with the challenge of advising students with no computer lab to truly call their own. Since the relocation, the office has become equipped with a computer kiosk.

According to Hicks, students "can come and take care of their adding and dropping while they are here." That way, no student slips through the cracks. "We can be here to help with any trouble."

The Academic Advising Center is located in room 112 of Watson Library. It is open Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

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Dr. Brian Gabrial reads the Current Sauce. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

NSU selects new wise chair Dr. Brian Gabrial

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

The Department of New Media, Journalism, and Communication has hired Dr. Brian Gabrial to fill the position of the Erbon and Marie Wise Endowed Chair in Journalism for the 2018-2019 school year.

A current Professor Emeritus and former master's program director at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, Dr. Gabrial brings nearly three decades of professional and academic experience to NSU. The department is excited at Gabrial's potential to make a huge impact on NSU's journalism students.

"Traditionally, when a professor takes an endowed position, it is more of an advisory role with the University," stated Thomas Whitehead, Professor Emeritus at NSU. "However, Dr. Gabrial will be a full-time professor with the university. His engaging teaching methods and enthusiastic attitude will be a huge asset to the journalism department."

In addition to teaching and program directing, Dr. Gabrial has experience in news production, and has won multiple awards in his career.

"Dr. Gabrial is as close to a complete package as we could have hoped for," said Paula Furr, Head of the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication. "We're hoping his experience and background will bring new thinking to the department."

Dr. Gabrial's office is located on the second floor of Keyser Hall, and he will be teaching a variety of classes within the department.

"The world of modern journalism is changing, and changing fast," said Dr. Gabrial. "A lot of people nowadays don't have media literacy. I feel that I can contribute a lot towards preparing students to be good journalists, and to keep up with the pace of today's media."

Senior NSU student and Baptist Collegiate Ministry President Chase Slater agrees with the department's assessment of Dr. Gabrial.

"In my opinion, he is the right fit for the job because he shows a genuine care for students," Slater said. "In a writing activity during his mock lecture, he emphasized how we can learn from each other's writing to become stronger writers ourselves."

Slater advocated on Gabrial's behalf to the committee selecting the new Wise Chair.

"There was just something about him I couldn't put my finger on," Slater said. "I just feel like he will be an invaluable asset to our NSU family."

Slater wrote an opinion piece regarding the Wise Chair's selection process on Page 3.

Louisiana legislature passes three bills affecting college life

Jennifer Doiron
Reporter

The legislature passed a budget allowing the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to be fully funded for the 2018-2019 school year. This gives the students more scholarship money as opposed to previous years when TOPS was only funded at 70.5%. The budget set for the TOPS program is now at $88,368,592. This is the first time TOPS has been fully funded in almost a decade.

The 30% increase in TOPS tuition allows students to apply additional funding elsewhere. This may include necessities such as books, meals, and any extra housing expenses.

"Now that the fiscal cliff is in the rear view mirror, prosperity and stability are straight ahead," Governor Edwards said at a news conference after finalizing the third special session.

A new hazing law, House Bill 78, will require colleges to educate students on the danger of hazing. The bill also states people who fail to immediately report a hazing event can be fined up to $1,000, imprisoned up to one year or both. If the event results in death, the offender can be fined up to $2,500, imprisoned up to five years or both.

NSU offers alternatives to hazing through a variety of on campus activities. These include participating in team building exercises, serving the community, and connecting with charitable organizations.

"NSU will aggressively continue with our hazing education and do everything we can to educate students about hazing and other detrimental practices," NSU President Chris Maggio said.

Another bill took effect starting Aug. 1, stating that medical marijuana will be available to patients with glaucoma, Parkinson's disease, severe muscle spasms, intractable pain and post traumatic disorder. LSU and Southern University have the only two agriculture centers legally allowed to grow the plant to be used for medical purposes.

NSU is a drug-free campus. Students and employees found possessing any illegal substance on university property will be subject to disciplinary action. However, for medicinal purposes, medical marijuana will be allowed on campus.

"Medical marijuana will be treated like any other legal drug prescribed for Northwestern students by a physician," said Dean of Students Frances Conine. "State law requires that medical marijuana prescriptions be filled at one of the nine approved pharmacies in Louisiana. Also, according to state law, medical marijuana cannot be smoked or inhaled. "

PARKWAY CINEMA
movie times

1101 Keyser Avenue
(318) 352-5109

Crazy Rich Asians
3:50pm 6:50pm 9:20pm

The Meg
3:50pm 6:50pm 9:20pm

The Happytime Murders
4:10pm 7:00pm 9:30pm

Mile 22
4:10pm 7:00pm 9:30pm

Christopher Robin
4:00pm 7:00pm 9:30pm

BlacKkKlansman
3:40pm 6:40pm 9:20pm

CAPA students prepare for annual program 'New Faces'

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Freshman theatre majors didn't have much time to settle in at NSU before getting hit with their first assignment: preparing for "New Faces," a one night only show on Monday, September 10.

"New Faces" is always the first show of the semester that the theatre department produces in the fall semester. It is meant as an introduction to the theatre department for those new at NSU.

Students register through the Intro to Theatre class, and each person performs an individual piece of their choosing. From behind the scenes, each student is assigned an upperclassman as a coach to help with their piece, whether they be focusing on Musical Theatre, Dance or Performance/Directing.

Emma Rivet, a senior advising two freshmen on their performances, said coaching typically consists of helping students find material and ensuring they are performance-ready. This year, a total of 71 incoming freshman will be on the stage for "New Faces."

Payton Hartwick, the Artistic and Production Director of "New Faces," is more than excited to be heading this year's production. She chose the opening act to be a number from the musical "Legally Blonde."



CAPA's Class of 2021 at last year's "New Faces."
Submitted Photo.

The storyline of the show will feature the freshmen going from high school and jumping headfirst into the Theatre department and learning the ropes and demands. Songs like "Find My Way" and "What You Want" will tie into this theme.

Hartwick wants the classmen to get a sense of the work ethic, passion and creativity that the department strives for and apply it to their future careers.

"It's almost surreal to think back when I was a freshman [and] how scared and nervous I was coming into this," Hartwick said. "Now being in this position, it feels rewarding to give these freshmen the same experience I got when I was like them."

For a few of the other classmen with history in the department, Thomas Hadzeriga, an acting director for "New Faces" and recurring coach fondly remembers performing an Olan Rogers monologue about his time in a Target bathroom. It wasn't a traditional theatre piece, so his focus during rehearsal was to change the piece to a unique theatrical direction.

"Coming into this department is your own journey," Hadzeriga said. "Whether or not you decide to stick with it is on you. It shows when you are trying and it makes a better impression."

Almost Home: a review

The Current Sauce is running a recurring column reviewing lesser kown restauraunts in Natchitoches... Stay tuned!

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

For some, Northwestern is only a short drive away from home, but for many of us, home is many arduous hours of travel away. When you are pining for a bite that will take you back to your roots, Almost Home is a great substitute for your mother's hot, home cooking.

When you walk in, the crowd is about the average age of 60 and completely immersed in their own plates. Many of them are eating alone and referred to by name from the staff. The staff seem to be of one family as some are tending to children, while others to the customers and food. My favorite aspect of this is that you know the food must be good, because the whole family has their own plates displayed from the lineup.

Almost Home doesn't have any bells or whistles to its menu. When you arrive, you'll see a sign that lets you know that the special is one meat and three sides, unregulated and as much as you dare to load up. It's pseudo-buffet style, where you serve yourself and you pick as you go. Grab as much as you can, though, because there won't be a chance for seconds.

While I was loading up my plate, I was told I could sit where ever I liked. There are two distinct areas of the restaurant. One is a closed off section of seating near the buffet, and another with a large window that allows seating to view the lake. I sat in the area overlooking the lake and, well, it almost felt like being in someone's home.

On that particular day, there were several meat options. I tried were the enchilada casserole and the hamburger steak with caramelized onions. You could tell everything was made from scratch with each bite. The hamburger steak was less-than-stellar, but I found the enchilada casserole to be especially yummy.

As for the sides, the selection is long, so prepare for some hard decisions. There are so many options, you could go cross-eyed. All sides are meatless, which makes it a great place for vegetarians to check out. In the end, I landed with the Southern classics of mashed potatoes, smothered cabbage, and cream corn. If I had to choose, I would say their smothered cabbage is some of the best I've had in Natchitoches. As a New Orleans native, I tend to get picky with my soul food, and this place seems to have it down to a science. That being said, I did have to add salt and pepper to pretty much everything, which left me wanting a little bit more in the flavor department.

Everything about the food at Almost Home is simple and to the point. There's nothing fancy or "up-town" here, but the food is hearty and will hit the spot after a long day. Overall, a meal with a drink cost $12 and one without, $10.50. I'd definitely return to Almost Home, especially to check out and try more of their rotating options.

Rating: 3/5 Pitchforks

Party Girl goes jailbreaking

Party Girl
Anonymous Contributor

Anyone who is anyone at Northwestern State knows that the start of a new fall semester brings one thing and one thing only: jailbreak. And naturally, with jailbreak comes a good bit of ridiculousness.

Such as showing up to The Press Box in your brand-new outfit at 9 p.m. to get a wristband, only to leave and return at the more reasonable hour of 11 p.m. to find that the place has already reached capacity and you are SOL.

Maybe you were one of the lucky ones to get in... or maybe not so lucky considering the temperature inside was hovering around a pleasant 100 degrees. Let's not mention the foggy bathroom mirrors, and the smell of body odor so bad it burnt your nose. Did I mention that the air conditioner was broken?

Or that there were so many people inside you couldn't move without brushing up against a stranger's sweaty arm, back, or chest. But hey, why does it matter how hot it is when you are throwing back as many Electric Lemonades or Vodka Crans as that cute boy over there will buy you and you are really living your best life?

Perhaps you, my friend, thought you were too cool for the good old Press Box. Did you show up to The Edge with all five of your friends and realize you were some of the few souls to grace the place? Maybe you were like me, and took a swing through Antoon's, only to find out that they were (shockingly) ID'ing people at the door.

Watching a whole lot of drunk people play pool is not as lit as it sounds. But then again, maybe you were that drunk person and you had the time of your life singing Garth Brooks' "Friends in Low Places" at the top of your lungs with every other drunk patron. It does not matter where you went. I can just about guarantee that if you went to any place around Natchitoches where jailbreak was the cause for celebration, you walked away with a killer hangover and stories to tell for years to come. Welcome back to the ridiculousness, Demons. I hope you survived well enough and have prepared yourself for the semester of ragers to come.

See y'all next time!
XOXO,
Party Girl



STAY current

Aug. 29
• Speed Friending – 8:30 p.m. at the BCM
• Midnight Cereal Bar at midnight in the Residence Halls
Aug. 30
• SGA T-Shirt Swap 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Trade a t-shirt from another university for a new NSU t-shirt.
• Panhellenic Sorority Convocation – 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Meet Recruitment Counselors and learn about the recruitment process.
Sept. 3
• Labor Day Holiday
Sept. 4
• Demons Turn Teal. Teal Out and Chill Out with drinks, snacks, and all things teal.
Sept. 5
• Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Organizational Meeting (with breakfast) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in Kyser Hall, Room 313
• Part-Time Job Fair – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Open to students of all majors.



vocal lessons
Text or Email
Sean Grady
337-353-9148 - sgrady007549@nsula.edu

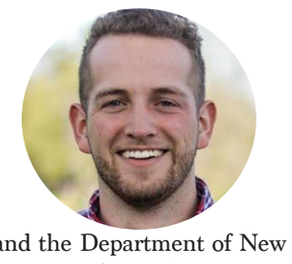
Ask Vic

Q *I've been at NSU for a year, but I want to be more active on campus. What are some organizations that I can get myself involved in?*

A There are so many organizations you can be a part of! Just depends on what you like! Want to try your hand at spoken word and poetry? Join the Brainy Acts Poetry Society! Have an interest in philanthropy and social events? Consider going greek! Wanna pick people's brains and learn more about psychology? Join the psychology club! Not a CAPA kid but dream of a life on the stage? Join Make Your Own Theater! Don't be afraid to try something completely unrelated to what you're used to. Orgsync is an excellent tool to browse through organizations you can join! College is the perfect time to discover new passions and make friends in parts of campus you would have otherwise never met. So fork it up a little and try something new!

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, or Email!
@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmaiil.com

Why Dr. Brian Gabrial is the right choice for NSU



Chase Slater
Contributing Writer

I would have never thought I'd be able to help NSU and the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts in hiring a new professor. I participated in three lectures given by three different applicants for the Erbon and Marie Wise Chair positio, and was able to give my thoughts on each.

The lectures were just like any other communication professor's lecture, but at the end of each lecture I knew that I had a responsibility to my peers, university and department. I felt the weight of responsibility to my university and the future of my department.

Sitting in the judgement seat is interesting, yet also intimidating, because I am casting judgement on a professional. Adults, who are potentially going to be my superiors, are teaching a lecture to impress a student. That didn't make much sense to me.

As I sat across from my professors listening to the lecturer I did not feel like they were my superiors. It felt like we were equals.

As I examined each applicant, I noticed things that would make them either fit well into the NSU family or make it difficult for them to complement our family.

That's why the department made the right decision in selecting the new wise chair. Dr. Brian Gabrial was humble in his mistakes and competent in his presentation. Above all, he has the personality that fits this university. He seemed to feel right at home and genuinely care for his students.

To Dr. Gabrial, I wish you the best of luck in helping lead our department to new heights. Having known your predecessor, I know you have big shoes to fill, but I am confident that you can and will fill them in a new and exciting way.

Welcome to the Demon Family!

NS YOU

What was your first year at NSU like?

Triston Bussell, Sophomore

"I was met with a lot more comfortability than I was nervousness but being an incoming freshman and a person from a small town I was nervous that was 2 hours away to a place where I only knew two people, The biggest thing was getting involved and not staying in my dorm, it just allowed me to branch out and meet more people."



Lara Schales, Sophomore

"My first year at NSU was unique. I finally had a place where it felt like a home away from home. Everyone at NSU was so friendly it made me feel like I had a million new friends. My first year at NSU has definitely had a positive impact on my life."





Leann Wills, Sophomore

"My brother was a senior when I was a freshman so I already had family up here. I was more excited than nervous coming up here, but I had this feeling that I wouldn't be able to find that home away from home. Even though I was already involved with dance line, I never imagined about how heavily involved I would be now compared to last year. The people I have interacted with have become my second family."



Kaitlin Hatten, Sophomore

"It was difficult adjusting to new workloads from high school but all the friends that I have made it worthwhile."

THE CURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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My home away from home



Trinity Velazquez
Contributing Writer

Anxiety mixed with excitement is always a great feeling. You feel like you could take on the world, but you also feel like you might throw up the breakfast you barely ate. It's the first week of classes at NSU and you tell yourself that this is your year.

Well, freshmen, let me be your cheerleader because this will be your year. The jittery feelings in your stomach are the same ones that I got last year, and the same ones I have now while writing this piece. I remember walking to class from my dorm and watching everyone look at their phones to figure out where to go. The faster I walked, the more nervous I became. I told myself repeatedly, "this is your year, live your best life."

Fast forward one year later, and I can confidently say that my freshman year of college was the start of four great years here at NSU.

Northwestern State is your home now, just like it is mine.

If I could sum up my freshman year in a one word, it would be "whirlwind." It was a year full of coffee breaks at 11 p.m., getting lost in Kyser and high-fiving Dr. Maggio in the Student Union. I went to Color Chaos one night, and the next I was trying to keep up with my finals—or at least that's how it seemed. I never realized how fast my freshman year went until it was almost over.

Even though time went fast, the moments that mattered most went by slowly. My friends quickly became my family and strangers suddenly weren't strange anymore. I found myself saying hi to people I've never met, and I became more comfortable with each day that passed. NSU became my home faster than I thought it would, and I'm confident that it will become yours. Welcome to Demonland and welcome home!

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Coach Brad Laird oversees practice drills. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Demons prepare to take on Texas A&M

Tanner Thibodeaux
Contributing Writer

Every team's season opener is a defining moment. It's a chance to reset the conversation, reset the record, and reset the perspective on the season. First games are a big deal, but when Northwestern State University matches up with Texas A&M on Thursday in College Station, TX, there is a whole lot more on the line than just resetting the conversation.

In his first season at NSU, new Head Coach Brad Laird has a lot to prove. Coming off of a 4-7 season last fall, Demonland is itching to see the results that the coaching change had on the football program.

"It's not that I expect them to win against an SEC team like Texas A&M, although I'm not counting them out," said sophomore NSU student Tyler Stephens. "I just want to see visible improvements in the way the team plays and holds up under pressure."

On the Aggies side of the field, the students of Texas A&M are looking to see start their first game of the season with a win. A&M also received a new head coach this season in the form of Jimbo Fisher, the legendary former Florida State University head coach.

"There's a new energy and optimism in Aggieland with Jimbo Fisher's arrival," Texas A&M student Jake Steen said. "He has brought a new mentality to this team. I expect the team to come out with a sense of urgency and play with purpose."

Although the Aggies anticipate an easy win to start the year, Coach Laird and the players are confident in how they match up.

"Our goal is to go out there and execute the game plan," stated quarterback Clay Holgerson. "We want to prove it on both sides of the ball and special teams."

The rest of the team agrees.

"The team goal is simple: come home with a win and stay consistent in everything we do," freshman linebacker Bishop Breaux said. "We want to play physical defense and stop the run."

Right tackle Dustin Burns added, "We want to play very physical all day long. We want to show that we are the most physical team in the Southland Conference."

According to Director of Athletics Greg Burke, NSU is being payed $515,000 by Texas A&M to play the game.

The Demons square up against the Aggies at 7:30 p.m. CST at Kyle Field.



Senior April Trowbridge, #10. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Soccer team seeks to make changes

Matthew Craig
Reporter

The Lady Demons' soccer team look to improve on their 6-12 record from last year. The key factor, first year Co-Head Coach Jess Jobe said, is leadership.

"We are stronger than what we were last year and have a good group of returning," Jobe said. "[They] are showing good leadership and that's important to us."

Coach Jobe believes they can make a run for the conference tournament or even the conference championship by taking it one game at a time.

Senior Olivia Marazzo has a chip on her shoulder due to people she believes are underestimating the team's young roster. Her and her teammates look to prove everyone wrong.

"We've made really good strides, and each game you can see it coming together more," Marazzo said. "I think at the beginning people underestimated us because we have 13 freshmen, but the freshmen are really stepping up and they are playing like vets."

Sophomore Ashley Medawattage said most teams think they are weak because of their size, but that does not stop them from playing hard. She believes if they put in hard work at practice that they are going have a great season.

"I kind of like being the underdog," Medawattage said. "I think when we come out, we can punch people in the face and give them something they don't really expect."

Coach Jobe believes they are going have a great season and they are going be able to do something special this year but he does not want to get ahead of himself.

"I don't want to get ahead of ourselves," Jobe said. "But I think we are going have a chance to do something special this season and we are really looking forward to see how it all plays out."

Demon cross country season to launch Friday

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

The Northwestern State cross country team laces up the spikes and heads to the McNeese Opener on Friday, Aug. 31 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. To some, it may seem like just another season opener. To the men and women of Northwestern State's cross country team, it will show if the hundreds of miles ran in the grueling summer heat has paid off.

In his third year at Northwestern State, Coach Chris Sauer has taken the distance program from being one of the worst in the Southland Conference, to being a name in contention for top placement during championship season.

"Chris Sauer has transformed the distance program by not only placing emphasis on recruiting in other regions of the US, but also by properly utilizing the talent already available," said Hunter Wamack, a former runner for the team.

Last season, Coach Sauer guided then senior Joshua Wilkins to a sixth-place finish at the 2017 Southland Conference Championships last fall. This accomplishment was reflective of the progress made by the entire roster, and sets the tone for the type of team Northwestern State is looking to compete.

"We didn't have a ton of success in the previous seasons before I got here and it's still turning around a lot," Sauer said in a recent press release. "Our goal is for people to look back on this group and say, 'This is the team that started everything.'"

The team is full of new faces this season. Returning only two seniors, one male and one female, the young team has an opportunity to look at and learn from the experiences that the upperclassman have had, while still being able to step up and make an immediate impact.

"For the past couple of years, and particularly this year, I've been really impressed on how all the teams come together," Sauer said. "I've seen a lot of the programs shift the mentality a lot towards being a team that's trying to turn things around. The whole emotion around [the athletic department] has changed."

After the season opener at Lake Charles, NSU heads to Louisiana Tech, McNeese, and Mississippi College throughout the course of this fall. The season ends where it begins, in Lake Charles, on Oct. 26 for the 2018 Southland Conference Championships.



the Current Sauce

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SAB: What you need to know

Jennifer Doiron
Reporter

Northwestern State University offers undergraduate students an opportunity to organize and create events for the rest of the student populous through an organization called SAB, otherwise known as the Student Activities Board.

SAB is comprised of an executive board, event directors, and event coordinators, who, in conjunction with student volunteers, facilitate many of the activities that our university advertises.

The Executive Board facilitates meetings and manages SAB as a whole, and they are comprised of: Bralyn James, President; Brea Housley, Vice President; Emily Benoit, PR&A; and Kennedy Cullen, Business Manager.

The event directors plan and organize events throughout the year. These members include Caelon Powells "Bubba," Camren Green, Maya Porter, Darius "Nugget," Reagan Escudé, Tre Jackson and Trent Starks.

The event coordinators help the event directors plan events. These members include: Logan Esthay, Char Wilson, Jhalon Thomas and Jada Dudley.

New Event Coordinators for this school year include: Treniya Wadley, Tore'a Taylor, Tarik Andrus, Keiona Guy, Juwan Manuel and Shelbi Rials.

Kennedy Cullen listed some of the events SAB will be hosting this year, some of which have already happened. SAB helped to facilitate move-in day for freshman, and partnered with SGA to send students to Texas A&M for the Demons first home game.

SAB will also be tailgating at all the home games this year, starting with the first one on Sept. 8. They will organize the famous Lady of the Bracelet pageant scheduled for Sept. 15, and various others throughout the course of the semester, including homecoming and Winter Wonderland to conclude the semester.

"I'm most excited to see how they grow at the end of the year," SAB President Bralyn James said. "I'm just here to advise them on what to do; they make it happen."

Tropical Storm Gordon not expected to shut down NSU

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

Less than three weeks into the semester, students are already anxious to hear news of class cancellation. It doesn't look like Tropical Storm Gordon will grant this wish.

"We have been closely monitoring the tropical storm currently in the Gulf of Mexico," Northwestern State University President Dr. Chris Maggio said Monday in a mass email to faculty, staff and students.

"At this time, classes and activities at Northwestern State University will continue as scheduled, and we encourage everyone to prepare for potential heavy rain and higher winds," he went on to say.

When the Current Sauce caught up with Maggio Tuesday evening, it seemed as though the weather is projected to be even less severe than originally thought.

"We're not expecting too much damage," Maggio said following a conference call with the National Weather Service. "The storm seems to be headed towards the top tip of Louisiana, closer to Monroe. Of course, you don't wish damage on anyone, but it looks like we're going to be spared."

The Shreveport Times reported that the storm is expected to have turned into a Category 1 hurricane by the time this issue hits the stands.

However, Davyon Hill, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service based in Shreveport, isn't worried.

"I don't think there's going to be any major effects in our region other than some beneficial rain," Hill said. "If there were any schools to close down, it would probably only be in northeast Louisiana."

See GORDON, Page 2

NSU Alumna to compete for Miss America

Jessica Gray
PR Manager



Conway wins the title of Miss Louisiana on June 23. *Photo by Steven Palowsky.*

Standing onstage in Monroe, Louisiana, on June 23, hand-in-hand with her fellow competitor, Holli' Conway's life changed forever. As they called her name as the new Miss Louisiana, Holli took the first steps that would lead her on her way to Atlantic City, New Jersey, to compete for Miss America.

Conway is Northwestern State University alumna with a degree in Musical Theatre. While a student at NSU, Holli was the talent at the Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet pageant when she was first approached to do a pageant.

Conway left for her two-week journey at Miss America Aug. 28, at 6 a.m. she told the News Star that she plans on bringing the Miss America crown home to Louisiana for the first time in the pageant's history.

"[In] everything I do, I want to give my all and be the best that I can possible be," Conway said. "I don't go in expecting anything less than the best of myself, and I want everyone to have that mindset. It's OK to go in and say 'I want to win."

"There's no doubt that Holli' can handle anything and everything that Miss America throws at her. She is a beautiful and brilliant young lady with challenging goals for the future," said Dewana Little, executive director of the Miss Louisiana Organization. "We are excited to see what the future holds for Holli'. She will certainly make the state of Louisiana proud in Atlantic City."

Conway's contention has generated near-universal excitement.

"There's just something about her that she's had even when we were kids," said Jamarius Williams, an NSU alumnus and lifelong friend of Conway's. "She's confident in who she is, she's an athlete, she has beauty, strength and passion. A fraction of these qualities in anyone would win the pageant and Holli' has them all."

"If in destiny there is a Miss Louisiana who will become Miss America, I'm confident it will be Holli'."

The Current Sauce had a minute to talk with Miss Louisiana's Outstanding Teen, Gracie Reichman. Reichman serves alongside Holli this year as her sister queen.

See CONWAY, Page 2

Tree removal project in the works

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter



Beetles infest a pine tree at NSU. *Submitted photo.*

While wandering around campus, you may have noticed a few trees missing or clear signs of their extraction. Many pine trees on campus have become infested with both southern pine beetles and ips, which must be removed.

Just what are these beetles, and how do they affect the trees?

Mead Goings, the grounds director at Northwestern State University said, "these beetles target stressed trees such as ones that may have been struck by lightning in the past." The U.S. Forest Service says that these insects will feast on healthy trees when food becomes plentiful, causing for a problematic situation.

Due to the severity of these infestations, the trees must be removed to prevent further spread of the beetles to healthy trees. These beetles are immune to insecticides, so there is little that can be done to remove the beetles once large infestations have occurred. Signs of infested trees include yellowing pine needles and 'pitch tubes' formed by the beetles burrowing in the bark.

Although removal is necessary, Goings said that up to at least 25 percent of additional trees than were removed get planted each year.

"Say we'll remove about ten trees," Goings said. "25 to 50 trees will be replanted within the next year."

New growth and new trees around campus will help to keep NSU beautiful, Goings said, and promote the natural ecosystem. He wants students to understand the importance of removing the infested trees.

"By doing nothing [this will] create more of a problem. Hard decisions are often necessary," Goings said.

"Although the historical spirit of the older trees are gone, the newer classes will be able to watch the newer [trees] as they grow," said NSU student Lance Duhe.

Former Student Government Association President Tre Nelson said that "NSU's beautiful campus would be elevated to new heights of aesthetic excellence with the addition of a fewmore trees around campus." Current SGA President Jacob Ellis said the tree removal project was one of Nelson's presidential initiatives.

Students take notice of Sodexo's rising prices

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Have you noticed your declining balance declining faster than usual this semester? Or that you paid more than you expected to once you got to the register with your items? You are not alone. The prices for both dining options in the Student Union, Vic's and The Grill, have grown exponentially.

Both Vic's and the Grill are the most popular options to eat on campus during lunch. The lines are long, everyone's trying to beat the lunch rush, and these changes in prices are going under the radar. For example, at Vic's, prices have been inconsistent.

A porkchop at Vics should cost $4.19 for DB holders, but the register has allegedly shown it at $5.09. Even for the Happy Hour 32-ounce soda, which should be priced at $1.29, now cost $1.54. Even when calculating tax, it would only add up to $1.39.

Students have posted on the Northwestern State Concerns page on Facebook, claiming that side orders like French fries and beverages at the Grill have been rung up as separate items.

Steve Kauf, a worker at Sodexo, has said that there is a combo option which adds $3 to whatever meal you get. He said his option for eating on campus is at Iberville, since "it's all you can eat for less than $8 on a meal plan."

After practice on her first day, Lisa King, a senior cheerleader at Northwestern State University, immediately noticed the change of prices. She has been going to the Grill almost every night for 3 years now and is very familiar with the menu and their prices. With the rise in price she does not recommend a meal plan to anyone.

"It's better to just go grocery shopping and cook," King said. "Going to eat at local restaurants would even be a better option than Sodexo because, even if you are getting a light snack or a light meal, you're still going to come out of more than $10."

When it comes to Sodexo's future regarding the prices, King thinks that if enough students speak up or stop buying from Sodexo, they will have no choice but to make a change to their prices. Otherwise, Sodexo will lose money. "By October, everyone is going to be out of DB and I doubt, with these prices, people will pay out of their pockets to eat Sodexo."



The 2018-2019 TRiO SSS mentors hold retreat at Russell Hall. *Submitted photo.*

NSU's TRiO Student Support Services conducts mentoring retreat

Terri Marshall
Instructor/Adviser

NSU TRiO Student Support Services conducted a mentoring retreat on Sunday, Aug. 19 in Russell Hall. The selected peer mentors are junior and senior participants within the TRiO SSS Program. They learned strategies, techniques and skills on becoming effective and dynamic mentors to new TRiO SSS students. The speakers for the retreat were Alexis Smith, NSU Title IX Coordinator, Lavonya Malveaux, Judicial Administrator for Opelousas City Court, and Mercedes Wiles, Second Grade Teacher (TRiO Alumnae and Former SSS Mentor). The speakers were engaging and informative. They discussed overcoming overcoming mentoring challenges, effective listening for better advocacy and how being a mentor is serious business. The goals of the mentoring program is to assist freshmen with graduating within 4-6 years and becoming acclimated to NSU academics and social culture. For more information on TRiO Student Support Services, please call (318) 357-5901.

ROTC to mark 69th battalion at NSU

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

Northwestern State University's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program will be hosting an activation ceremony on Sept. 6. The event will be at 3:30 p.m. on the Kyser Brickway.

Lieutenant Colonel Wendell Bender is the commanding officer of NSU's ROTC program. He has been with the university since June.

Bender said the program currently has "approximately 42" members. The ceremony will be open to all NSU students to attend.

The LTC said the ceremony next week will have two objectives.

"One, is to commentate the start of the new school year, and the new battalion," Bender said of the event. He went on to say that another part of the ceremony is a "recruiting event."

Some students in ROTC have some insight into why they choose to join the program.

John Ham is a cadet major and battalion executive officer. Ham said he was in JROTC in high school and was interviewed for a scholarship by the previous LTC at NSU.

"He told me all about ROTC. What they have here, at this specific one at Northwestern," said Ham.

Karl Marzahl is a cadet lieutenant colonel. He said he was also interviewed for a scholarship by the previous LTC.

We talked about this program specifically, I was in contact with their recruiting officer. And I really liked it, so I decided I was gonna come here," said Marzhal.

After graduating they will go to Basic Officers Leadership Course. Ham said he program will train them "on whatever job the Army decides to give us."

See ROTC, Page 2

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NSU's Cammie G. Henry Research Center assists Smithsonian

Maina Ibn Mohammed
Reporter

Two researchers from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., came to Northwestern State University's Cammie G. Henry Research Center to work on a new Clementine Hunter exhibition.

The exhibition, "Clementine Hunter: Life on Melrose Plantation," opened on Aug. 25 at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is set to stay open through March 2019.

"We did a simple Google search and many of the documents related to Clementine Hunter came up on the Cammie G. Henry Research Center," said Kassie Edwards, one of the researchers.

Edwards was accompanied by Jacquelyn Serwer, chief curator of visual art at the museum. The two researchers studied the center's materials to learn the inspiration behind Hunter's paintings and to understand what life was like on a 20th-century plantation. They used the center's collection of "scrapbooks, recordings, newspapers, photos, magazines, and brochures," Edwards said.

"[The research center] contains more than 256 scrapbooks, 1,400 folders, an extensive book collection, maps, recordings, pictures, microfilms and CDs," said university archivist Marry Linn West. "I think it's wonderful that the Smithsonian is utilizing this center."

According to the Natchitoches Times, 13 paintings were gathered from the museum's collection and electronically sent to the Smithsonian.

"When Cammie G. Henry died in 1970, her possessions were auctioned off by her children," said Tommy Adkins, a tour guide at the plantation. NSU bought them.

Hunter's paintings are recognized and respected all over the world. According to Sue Keller, a plantation tour guide, Hunter learned to paint by accident.

"All this happened when an artist came to the plantation and left some oil paint behind," Keller said. At the age of 50, "Hunter said, 'I took them home and by the light of a kerosene lamp I mapped my first picture.'"

Thomas Whitehead, Professor Emeritus at NSU and a longtime friend of Hunter's, highlighted the importance of her work in a post-World War II context.

"Besides Hunter's painting talents, she was also able to provide an insider's perspective on life at Melrose before mechanization came to the plantation after World War II," Whitehead said.

Hunter has become one of the most famous artists to born and work in Natchitoches Parish. An Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts was awarded to Hunter in 1985.

Hunter died in 1988 at the age of 101. About 5,000 of her paintings are in circulation.

NSU's Cammie G. Henry Research is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.



"Baptizing with Lady in Orange Dress," dating back to the late 1950s or early 1960s, is featured in the exhibition at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

ROTC

Continued from Page 1

Dominitra Charles is a Military Science 4. She has four years of previous experience in the Army Reserves.

When Charles first came into the program she said that her male counterparts "kind of [saw] themselves as a higher standard." Prior to taking the Army Physical Fitness Test, for example, she said the men assumed the females wouldn't be able to pass it.

Charles proved them wrong. "I would stay up and then I'd come in third. It would be two males and then it [would] be me," she said.

She said the experience "set the standard" for other female cadets.

Gennyfer Pena is an MS2. She is also enlisted in the National Guard as an E-3. She joined because she "wanted to be a part of something bigger," and described herself as "really competitive."

"When it comes to like my physical stuff, I don't just want to qualify for what's passing for me," she said. "I want to qualify for what's passive for the males."

There is not a service obligation for the first two years of ROTC at college. Marzahl said the during the last two years of ROTC, students must sign a contract and agree to serve four years.

The Army provides ROTC students with full tuition up to $5000. It also gives each student $600 per semester for books and a monthly stipend of $420.

NSU offers free room and board to ROTC students, as well as free parking. Once students graduate from ROTC, they become second lieutenants in the Army.

Gordon

Continued from Page 1

"Right now, the rainfall estimates are somewhere around an inch or so," Hill added. "That could change, though, depending on the track [of the storm]."

Hill said the rain could fall under an inch, if anything.

"I'm going to go cry now," said senior Madison Farquhar when told of Hill's prediction. "I needed a rain day. Two thumbs down."

Communications instructor Emily Zering took the opposite tone.

"Obviously, everyone's safety is the main priority," Zering said. "But academic progress can continue as planned and help us meet our course goals."

Conway

Continued from Page 1

"Holli's positive personality has the ability to touch and impact every person she has come into contact with," Reichman said. "That is why she is the embodiment of the perfect Miss Louisiana and even Miss America."

The Miss America competition broadcasts live on Sept. 9 (8:00-10:00 p.m. CST) on ABC.

Conway will be making a special appearance at the Creole Heritage Center's 20th Anniversary Celebration next week, which lasts from Sept. 13 – 15.



Demon Dazzlers perform at Kyle Field in College Station, Texas. *Photo by Hannah Pettus.*



STAY current

September 5th:
- Part-Time Job Fair-
  Student Union Ballroom
- Welcome Reception for
  International Students
  President's House
- The Inferno Practice Run
  Turpin Stadium

September 6th:
- 69th Demon Battalion
  Activation Ceremony
  Kyser Brickway
- NPHC Block Party
  Iberville Green

September 7th:
- Mud Volleyball Tournament
  Organization Row
- Demons Come Out at Night
  Pep Rally
  NSU Tailgate Field & Collins
  Pavillion

September 8th:
- The Inferno
  Pitchfork Pass
- First Home Game
  Turpin Stadium

September 10th:
- New Faces
  A. A. Fredericks Auditorium

September 11th:
- The First Year Involvement Challenge
  Student Union Ballroom

Ask Vic

Q *Hey Vic! I'm a freshman and I know it's only been a week of school, but I'm starting to feel a little homesick. What should I do to help me make NSU feel more homey?*

A Hey lonely freshman, have no fear. College can be pretty daunting, especially if you're really far away from home. But you know what the worst thing you can do is? Sit in your dorm all my yourself and wallow in self pity about how sad you are. I get it. It sucks sometimes. But I'll tell you a secret about Natty. It's fun. It's fun if you've got the right people by your side. I know this sounds cliche, but if you haven't joined a club or organization, it's going to be really hard to find that family away from home. Find the people who feel like home and stay close to the ones that feel like sunlight. They're here - I promise, but you gotta leave your dorm first. Focus on having fun here, and then get excited to call your parents and tell them all about it (well, as much as they need to know.) Don't tell them about the rando you kissed at the bar or how you drunkenly jumped off a frat house roof. Proven method to get yourself sent back home. As always, Fork 'em Demons.

What's with the empty space?

Trinity Velazquez
Reporter



I can give you a million reasons why moving the bookstore was a bad thing for the students.

I could go on and on about how Northwestern State Marketplace's parking is limited, how everything is cramped and cluttered or how customer service seems nonexistent, but I won't—at least not now. I'm sure the university has its reasons for moving the bookstore, and because the bookstore has moved there is now a new opportunity to put something better in the space where the bookstore was.

By now, you may have heard that the administration wants the space to be an eSports arena. I'd never even heard of an eSports arena before word got out last week, but essentially, it's a large computer lab where people can play video games.

Obviously, I'm not a big fan of the idea. I'm not a gamer, nor will I ever go out of my way to watch someone play a video game on a Friday night when there is something way more fun that I could be doing.

I've asked many students what they think should be done with the empty space in the Student Union. Everybody wants more food options, and I can't blame them. I want better food options as well. Wouldn't it be nice if we finally had a Whataburger?

Yes, the food idea is nice, but I believe that we need more fun on campus. Northwestern State University needs something that will help the students get to know one another more. What if we made the empty space into a lounge for students? What about a bowling alley? The empty space could even be an arcade with door prizes or maybe a dance club where students can take a break at night while still remaining safe on campus.



"University Bookstore has moved." *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

Regardless of what your take is on the empty room, it is important for the student body to make its voice heard. Talk to your student government senators and administration and tell them how you feel. We all want the school to be the best it can be, but that will only happen if the students are at their best.

Whatever NSU decides to do with the space, it needs to be beneficial to all students, not just a select few. It needs to be something we all agree on, because this is our university. Whatever we want this space to be should be priority and no one should make that decision for us. We are the spirit of Northwestern and this university is dedicated to one goal: ours.

INFOWARS: to ban or not to ban?

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor



For many years, Alex Jones has been spreading conspiracy theories to the American people. He has repeatedly said that the Sandy Hook mass shooting was faked and that 9/11 was an inside job. It should be easy to agree that social media sites shouldn't allow Jones' content on their platforms, but it's not necessarily that simple.

When sites like Facebook and YouTube banned Jones, they only added on to the conspiracy that the media is trying to silence members of the Alt-Right. He and others may weaponize this as a recruiting tool.

Sites like YouTube do have their own policies that Jones had to agree to before starting his channel. NBC News reported that YouTube "issued a warning that more violations could result in a ban from the video platform."

The Infowars star still has his main website up, so his ability to reach his followers has not fully gone away.

With the Internet, anyone who wishes to speak their mind may do so. Hate groups like the KKK and Neo-Nazis have a plethora of similar sites online.

I do not know whether there is a right way to stop the spread of these lies. Maybe there is no way. If Jones is not the one speaking lies then someone else will. This underscores the responsibility that real journalists and trustable news organizations have to help keep order. Without reliable journalists, we would never know what is actually true.

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NSYou: Your questions answered.

What's your favorite place to hang out on campus?



Alexis Dardar-
"Chaplin's Lake"

Classification-
Sophomore

Major- Health and Exercise Science



Madelyn Dupont-
"Vic's. There is air conditioning, seating, food, and great people."

Classification-
Sophomore

Major- Communications



Amanda Rushing-
"The giant tree by the FACS building."

Classification-
Sophomore

Major- HMT



Cayman Watson-
"My bed"

Classification-
Sophomore

Major- Communications

Following 57-7 loss against A&M, Demons optimistic for first home game

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor



Jazz Ferguson dodges an Aggie. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

First-year head coach Brad Laird and the Northwestern State Demons travelled to Kyle Field in College Station, Texas, for the season opener against Southeastern Conference giant Texas A&M and walked away with a 59-7 loss.

"When it came down to the fourth quarter, this team didn't quit," Laird said in a press release. "We made a lot of mistakes, and that starts with me, and one game doesn't define us as we have a lot of opportunities left."

For the Aggies, this game was a test of how well veteran Head Coach Jimbo Fisher, formerly of Florida State, could lead the young Texas A&M team as they look to improve their standing in the SEC.

For the Demons, this game was a test of how well Laird could bring the Demons together in front of adversity, following a 4-7 season in 2017.

The Demon defense seemed to slow the Aggies in the first quarter, holding them to an early 7-0 lead. However, the Aggie offense found their rhythm in the second quarter, posting 28 more points before halftime, making the score 35-0 going into the second half.

"Texas A&M is a good team, and we'll learn from this game and get better," junior linebacker Blake Stephenson said. "We'll regroup for our home opener and play with a chip on our shoulder."

The Demon offense cycled through two different quarterbacks, junior Shelton Epper and senior Clay Holgorsen, throughout the game. Both quarterbacks threw for over 100 passing yards, with Holgorsen throwing the game's only touchdown with a fourth quarter pass to LSU transfer Jazz Ferguson.

Senior punter Parker Pastorello had an outstanding game, averaging 42 yards over 9 punts, with three being more than 50 yards.

The fourth quarter was the Demons' best from a statistic standpoint as Texas A&M outgained NSU 148-101 in the final period.

"We'll look at positives like winning the turnover battle (1-0) and not making a turnover," Laird said. "What really got us was third downs (NSU was 1-of-12 and Texas A&M went 8-of-11).

We couldn't sustain drives and we weren't able to get off the field defensively on third down. But plays like Jazz made tonight shows you what he can do when he gets opportunities to make big plays."

"We did do some positive things tonight, and we'll evaluate ourselves. They say the biggest improvement is from Week 1 to Week 2, and I'm confident this team will bounce back for our home opener against Grambling."

The Demons host their first home game of the season against Grambling State Saturday, with kick-off at 6 p.m. in Turpin Stadium.

NSU vs Grambling in cookoff



As part of the Northwestern-Grambling football weekend, an exciting "cook-off" contest will be Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the football practice field-tailgate area.

NSU's Director of Athletics Greg Burke and Grambling's Athletic Director Paul Bryant Sr. will serve as celebrity chefs for the fan-driven event. Chicken and spare ribs wll be the featured items for cooking and judged for prizes.

The entry fee is $25 per person.

To enter contact Donta Latchie at (318) 471-792, the Rev. Steven Harris at (318) 419-0802 or Van Erikson at (318) 357-6011.

Caserma's hat trick leads soccer to win against ULM

Matt Vines
Assistant Director of Communications



Brittany Caserma races down the field. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Senior forward Brittany Caserma thrashed her way into the scoring column Sunday with her second career hat trick as Northwestern State bested ULM, 5-2.

Caserma, NSU's leading goal scorer from 2017, missed the first two games of the season and didn't score in the next two before tallying three goals Sunday.

Caserma knocked in NSU's first goals in the first 27 minutes to build a lead that the Lady Demons (3-2) didn't relinquish to the Warhawks (0-6).

"I was able to get to the 50-50 balls today with this being our first and only game of the week," Caserma said. "My confidence was up after being able to play and get more comfortable with everybody on the team, and everybody felt really confident on the ball today.

"We weren't trying to force anything."

Caserma produced her first career hat trick in the 2017 opener against LSU-Shreveport.

The Murrieta, California, native pushed NSU out to a quick 2-0 with a header goal in the 20th minute and a loose ball goal in the 27th minute.

"We got to see the impact Caserma has and what she's able to do," said NSU co-head coach Jess Jobe. "Those scrappy moments where she's willing to fight and use those physical attributes to win those balls.

"Her first goal was a fantastic header, and she wasn't taking no for answer. Any time you get a hat trick, that's fantastic."

With Caserma's hat trick, she vaults into NSU's top 10 in career goals (19) and points (40).

Freshman forward Jalen Donaldson had both assists on Caserma's first two goals. Donaldson crossed a ball in the box that found Caserma's head and then fired a ball into the box that Caserma connected with.

Donaldson leads NSU with three assists this season and has five points overall. The Lady Demons haven't scored at into the box that Caserma connected with.

Donaldson leads NSU with three assists this season and has five points overall. The Lady Demons haven't scored at least five goals since the 2017 opener against NAIA member LSUS (12 goals). The last time NSU scored five goals against a Division I member was in 2015 against Alcorn State (eight goals).

NSU had two career firsts Sunday as Natalee Henry and Norma Trejo each scored goals.

Henry's goal ended up being the game-winner as she finished an April Trowbridge cross from close range in front of the goal to give NSU a 3-0 lead in the 41st minute.

"It felt good to get in and get on the ball," Henry said. "It was a great assist by Trowbridge, and we deserved this goal and all the other goals we scored today.

"I was seeing a wide open goal after Trowbridge found me."

ULM responded in the final minutes of the first half with a Mackenzie Bell goal, her first of two goals on the day.

But NSU put an exclamation mark on the win in the opening minutes of the second half after Caserma headed in a ball to rebound a Jayden Wheeler shot. NSU led 4-1 in the 49th minute.

The Warhawks, who took a strong McNeese squad to overtime Friday, stayed within striking range when Bell's second goal sliced the lead to 4-2 in the 60th minute.

But Trejo capped the win by finishing a goal after Caserma collided with ULM goalkeeper Bre Truscott in the 77th minute.

"It feels amazing. I was talking to my teammate (Kiara Padilla) on the sideline, and she said that I better score one," Trejo said. "Shout out to Kiara.

"When the play happened, I was thinking I had to make this. The goal was wide open, so if I missed it, it would have been terrible. But luckily I made it."

NSU logged its first home of the season to start a five-match home stretch. Up next is Southern on Friday at 7 p.m.

Have a knack for sports?

We want to hear your voice! Contact us at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com to find out more about sports reporting for the Current Sauce!

GAME SCHEDULE

-SAT 9.8.18 | 6:00 @HOME

-FRI 9.7.18 | 7:00 @HOME

-SUN 9.9.18 | 1:00 @HOME

-FRI 9.7.18 | 4:30 @ORAL ROBERTS

-SAT 9.8.18 | 11:30AM @TULSA

the Current Sauce

Vol.104 - Issue #4 www.currentsauce.com September 12, 2018

Conway is second runner-up at Miss America

Jessica Gray
PR Manager



Photo by Steven Palowsky.

Northwestern State University alumna Holli' Conway placed second runner-up representing Louisiana at the Miss America competition Sunday.

Conway also received a preliminary talent award and over $26,000 in scholarships for her performance as a contestant.

She said her first goal upon boarding the plane back to Louisiana was to sleep.

Conway has taken her place in Miss America history as the first Miss America class to compete without a swimsuit. A peer-to-peer question replaced the swimsuit competition this year.

"I knew that the question would be hard and it would be something important to each of the girls," Conway said.

Upon making the top 10 Conway realized she would be able to perform her talent on national television. "I get to do my talent!" Conway said. She actually lost her voice the morning of her preliminary talent competition and was on vocal rest for the remainder of the competition.

According to Conway, the best part of not only the Miss America competition but being Miss Louisian is the connections you make. At the Miss America after party, Conway had the opportunity to talk to one of the judges who happened to be from Julliard.

Lady of the Bracelet Event Director Reagan Escudé shared her excitement for Conway's placement as second runner-up.

"We are so honored to have one of our own make it that far in Miss America," Escudé said.

Conway is actually the emcee for the Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet pageant this weekend. "The fact that she is able to come and emcee at Lady of the Bracelet is just so exciting and we can't wait to see her!"

'Phishermen' Overseas Hook NSU Email

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

Louisiana is no stranger to fishing as a sport or a hobby. However, Northwestern State University has recently been targeted by a different type of fishing, known as "phishing".

A phishing scam is a campaign that an individwual or group puts together to acquire sensitive information, such as passwords and credit card details, by masquerading as a person or business in an apparently official electronic communication.

"Most of these scams originate from overseas. These scams are global," said Shawn Parr, Lead Information Administrator for NSU's Information Technology Service. "The email addresses for the incident at NSU trace back to the Republic of Seychelles, off of the coast of Africa, and from mobile phones in Great Britain."

"There is always a 'patient zero', someone who falls for the original clickbait and puts in their credentials. In our case, student information," Parr said.. "From there, the account is compromised, and it is then used to 'phish' for more students."

NSU is not the only university reporting this scam. Ohio State University, among others, have all sent out warnings to their faculty and students, urging them to be careful when opening emails, accepting phone calls, and providing confidential information.

On Aug. 24 and 25, NSU was hit by the first wave of the current phishing scam, through its Office 365 program.

"Office 365 has spam protection, and it will detect when too many emails are being sent from one account. If it detects that an account is sending spam, it will block all emails sent from that account," Parr said. "However, whoever launched this attack rotated email addresses, and even knew when we weren't in the technology office. These attacks are becoming more and more sophisticated."

Ron Wright, Chief Information Officer at NSU, has been working diligently to prevent the further spread of these attacks.

In a recent message to all students, he stressed to never "...open attachments from unknown users, open unexpected attachments from known users, enter your username, password, social security number, student ID number, or any other personally identifiable information into a form presented within or from a link provided in an email message.

"In the most recent attempt seen on campus, the scammer replied to messages in compromised mailboxes, increasing the chance that the user would follow the link, since it was seemingly sent from a fellow student or staff member," Wright said. "Phishing emails have links to websites that almost identically imitate real websites, like myNSU. This is where the user is prompted to give their information."

"The university employs both hardware and software solutions to provide a high level of protection to our users. As a result, we filter thousands of spam messages, phishing attempts, and malware payloads each day. Due to the constantly evolving methods used, education is the best defense against these types of attacks," Wright continued. "When accounts are identified as being compromised due to a phishing attempt, they are disabled until we are able to ensure that the user has been contacted and their passwords changed." Remember, when in doubt – just delete it!

Administrators want eSports. Wait, what are eSports?

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Everyone seems to have an opinion about what should be done with the empty room on the first floor of the Friedman Student Union.

A couple of weeks ago, The Current Sauce reported that the administration would like to use the area for an eSports arena. This has understandably gotten a lot of attention.

For those unaware, eSports refers to competitive video gaming. It was mostly underground in the early 90's, but due to the advancements of technology including online gaming, Worldwide tournaments and livestreaming sites such as Twitch has turned it into a booming market. Companies like ESPN have fully embraced the eSports market, and are televising events like The International Dota 2 Championship, Overwatch World Cup, and Evolution Championship Series to name a few.

Dr. Maggio had students come to him regarding implementing eSports to the school for years and has seen the potential for it. Maggio started researching not only what other schools do, but the popularity of eSports, with some major tournaments surpassing viewership of traditional sports.

This year alone, for instance, the Mid-Season Invitational for League of Legends saw 60 Million unique viewers tune in for the finals and 19.8 million concurrent peak views. Compare that to the NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers with an average of 17.56 million and a peak of 18.47 million. Granted the viewership for eSports is Worldwide, but that opens even more opportunities for eSports.

While the eSports arena isn't set in stone, one idea the administration came up with is to have it include casual and competitive gaming. This has the potential to be an area that can satisfy both needs rather than the misconception of being "a large computer lab where people can play video games."

Maggio said he wanted to make sure that the "students and faculty are all on the same page, and [we didn't] want to roll out something, and say, 'Hey, this is what we are going to do.'"

Maggio hopes if this is the path that is decided for that area, he wants it to be around for a long time. He compared to the club rowing team as that started years ago with only handful of players, and now has more than 100 people that travel and compete with rival schools.

"We want our students to have opportunities they might not have at other places," Maggio said. "I do think it's the wave of the future, or the present now!"

Another area considered to be used as a multi-purpose area is the Alley. According to Frances Conine when she first came to NSU, the Alley used to be an old bowling alley with 3 lanes. It started to deteriorate and wasn't very popular with students at the time. The Alley is also part of the major project of the Student Union's reconstruction.

"I think there is plenty of space to do all kinds of things that will lend itself to lots of people," Conine said.



Construction workers lay the groundwork for the stage. *Photo by Brooke Perkins.*

New stage on Iberville Green begins construction

Trinity Velazquez
Contribting Reporter

A new stage broke ground last week on Iberville Green, the field beside Iberville Dining Hall. It is scheduled for completion by homecoming week.

2016-2017 Student Government Association President Jon Pearce came up with the idea during his presidency. With funding coming from organizations like the Student Activities Board and SGA, along with alumni, his vision is finally in the works.

"I think it is wonderful the university used a bit of money to make up the difference," Dean of Students Frances Conine said. "It has morphed into this expensive, but very, very nice stage area, which can be a multi-purpose entertainment area."

Director of Student Union Life Alan Pasch said that DemonFest, Freshman Connection, Purple Palooza and other organizations will be using the new stage as well.

"There are already a lot of events out there, it's picking up attractions and it's right next to the dorms," Pasch said. "It's super easy for people to get there and it's also right next to [Iberville Dining Hall]."

The stage will be powered, and there will be lights underneath it. As for the size, Pasch said the university is aiming for the max height allowed by law.

"You know I'm going to have a one woman show," Conine joked. "I'm going to sing the fight song and sing the Alma Mater!"

"I think the stage is a good idea because it's always been just the [grass], and having the stage would save some time on events," said sophomore, Leann Wills, who works for First Year Experience.

Once it has been built, reservations will have to be made for any organizations who want to rent the stage.

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A taste of NOLA

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

If I'm honest, I have experienced a lot of anticlimactic or just plain bad Cajun or creole food in this area. For this New Orleans girl, I just believe these foods should be cooked just as if you were a native yourself, especially if you're going to label it 'New Orleans's Style.' I feel like I can finally, confidently say, that when I miss my true New Orleans foods, I have a place to turn here in my home away from home: Cane River Commissary.

As you walk in you'll notice the place is quite small, in fact they are at max capacity with 48 people. Despite this, it's not overcrowded and it's decorated so on brand with Natchitoches. Cute paintings and pictures line the walls, and it just creates a very charming and somehow uplifting atmosphere.

The menu is only one page, which feels like a relief sometimes after going to restaurants and flipping around a menu and having no idea what to order. Still, they have a wide selection to choose from. They all sounded scrumptious, but I knew that I needed to put this place to the test: a po-boy. You see, in New Orleans, po-boys are all about the bread, and this is something I have never been able to find my time here.

First, for an appetizer, we tackled the Shell Beach Sampler, and after trying this, I will never go back to triple dippers at Chili's. The sampler came with mini meat pies, artichoke wontons and cheddar bites. None of these things in their own right sound special, but I think I could have eaten three of these samplers on my own. The meat pies were flavorful and juicy, and the wontons were basically fried artichoke dip, which is amazing. Lastly, the cheddar bites reminded me almost of New Orleans style fried eggplant sticks, which where my favorite food as a child, so this really was a hit for me.

The moment of truth arrived for me when my po-boy was placed in front of me. At first glance, I could already tell they had one thing wrong. No respectable po-boy joint would ever use anything other than shredded lettuce, but I was willing to let this slide if the bread was that perfect French bread texture. First bite in, and I knew it was the closest I'd had since I've been here. It was almost a spiritual moment to be able to taste home. If I had one thing to say, they could probably let the bread stale a little to provide that crunch, but other than that, it was pretty spot on.

As lagniappe I was able to try some of their jambalaya, which was flavored in all the right ways, and a creamy creole pasta that truthfully, I did not care for at all. While almost everything else I tried had been packed with flavor, this pasta was so bland it was disturbing. Overall with only one and a half misses, including the lettuce, I think Cane River Commissary has some truly amazing Louisianan foods. Also, for anyone over twenty-one, they have incredible drink specials, like three-dollar glasses of wine or bottomless mimosas!



Cane River Commissary, located at 4191-4197 LA-494, Natchez, LA 71456. *Photo by Jacob Bennett.*

Argus: Letter from the editor

Katie Rayburn
Argus: Editor-in-Chief

We are elated to announce that the theme for the 2018-2019 edition of Argus is Madrugada: Before Dawn. The word "Madrugada" is Spanish for the time of day before the first lights have graced the sky and has no direct translation into English. However, the word evokes powerful emotions and imagery from the time of day when the world still sleeps as the few begin to open their eyes.

This theme encompasses the feelings of harmony and stillness of the early morning while also including the beginning stirrings of thoughts and actions for the day. Before the beginning, before the day has yet to start, this is the setting of abundant possibilities and the realization of dreams from the night before. As Paulo Coelho wrote in The Alchemist, "It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting."

Keeping the theme in mind, we encourage all students to submit their poetry, fiction, nonfiction, art, and photography to ArgusNSU.submittable.com/submit before Dec. 4, 2018. Students must use their school email, and we ask that written pieces be no longer than 8 pages double-spaced. Students can submit as many pieces as they want and for as many categories as they would like. There is a cash prize for each category for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, chosen by unbiased outside judges, so the more pieces you submit in each category, the better your chances are of placing! If you have any questions, email us at argusnsu@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing your interpretations of this theme and how it inspires you to write fantastic pieces or capture beautiful works of art! Whether you believe in ample possibilities or that the darkest hour always comes before the dawn, we cannot wait to see your vision of Madrugada: Before Dawn.



Photo by Allie Atkinson.

Shop until we drop

Steven Sheerin
Contributing Reporter

We're all shopaholics, but that isn't our own fault, right? Consumer culture is when the goods and services we buy influences our lifestyles, activities and values.

Ellen Swallow Richards, one of the founders of what is now family and consumer sciences, said, "Subject the material world to the higher ends by understanding it in all its relations to daily life."

With people, including students, purchasing more luxury goods over basic necessities, it is safe to say that what we buy dictates how we live. Thus, our thoughts of purchasing unethical and non-sustainable products without thinking of the consequences are justified in our minds as "ok." With growth of some industries, like tech companies, others can fall short due to depleting resources and by trying to meet consumer demands.

An example of this is the tequila industry. which brands had to raise their prices due to high consumption. As of last year, there has been an increased price of the agave plant per kilo, averaging about five times the price as it was sold at in 2016.

As consumption increases and resources decrease, for sustainability, instead of buying that next bottle of tequila for the next party, try opting for a different liquor of the same quality or grade that is easier to sustain and limiting your tequila consumption can help save the agave plant, and other goods, from extinction.

The new faces of NSU's theatre department



Most of the 71 freshman thatre students, Class of 2022, finding their way at the last scence of their outro and showing student peers, faculty and locals what they are made of. With the talet showcased at the main stage of A.A Fredericks on Sept. 10, 2018, attendees are eager to see the productions that will display all of the students uniquenesses and talents. *Photo by Cassandra Philips.*

STAY current

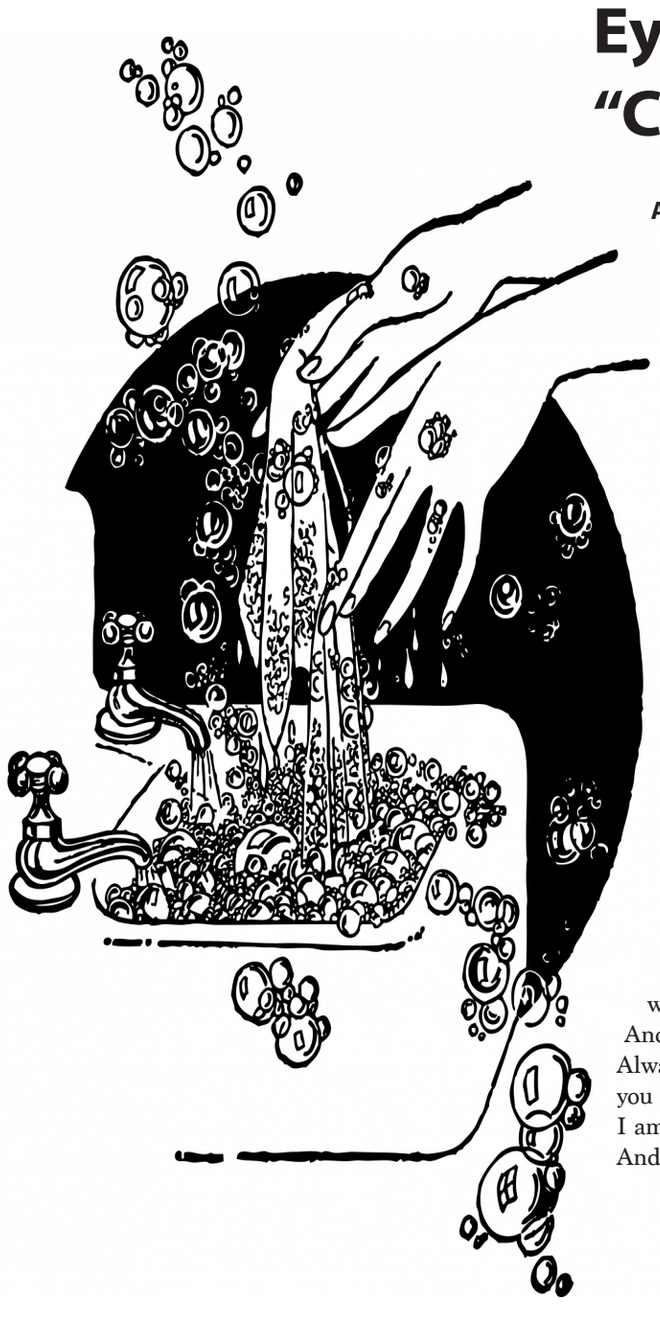
Sept. 12
• Student Support Services Game Night – 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Student Union President's Room
• The Baptist Collegiate Ministry will begin family group studies after worship. – 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 13
• Coffee with Conine – 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. at Café DeMon
• SHARP: Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Self-Defense Training 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Health and Human Performance, Room 127

Sept. 15
• 61st Miss Lady of the Bracelet Pageant – 3 p.m. at A.A. Fredericks Auditorium with special appearance from Miss Louisiana Holli' Conway

Sept. 17
• SGA celebrates Constitution Day. Stop by the SGA table at Vic's for light refreshments and a pocket-sized constitution. – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
• SHARP: Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Self-Defense Training 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Health and Human Performance, Room 127

Sept. 18
• Study Abroad Information Session – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Student Union Lobby
• New to You T-Shirt Market – Noon - 1 p.m. Swap three canned goods to benefit the NSU Food Pantry in exchange for a vintage t-shirt.
• Teal Tuesday: Teal There's A Cure – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Student Union Lobby



Eyes of Argus: "Cleanse"

Allie Atkinson *1st place winner- language*

Explain to me how I miss the feeling of
being touched,
But I don't want to see my hands dirty.
My body is an empty, echoing cave
Cooing to lure someone in.
But any disturbance is unwelcomed.
Any trace is scrubbed from the
stone.
Remain as you are
Remain as you were,
A repetitive broken record.
Evidence of how I sleep at night.
I pick and pick at the crust of you
beneath my nails,
Washing away any reminder of you.
Because the memories with you
Are more like disoriented
nightmares
Where I wander in a haze,
A wonderland that I don't want to get
lost in.
And I didn't need a potion to make me
feel small.
A state of mind where feelings come in
waves
And irrationality follows you like your shadow,
Always accompanied with the disappointment
you brought upon yourself.
I am still trying to wash myself clean of you,
And I am still trying to learn how to.

Ask Vic

Q *Hey Vic, I'm about to graduate, and I have no idea what I want to do. I haven't looked for any jobs and I don't know where to go to grad school and I don't want to live on my parents' couch after I leave. Help.*

A Hey Scared Senior,
It's totally okay if you don't know what you're doing. Literally no one does. (People just pretend they do.) But here's the thing, you need a loose plan. A back-up plan if you will. A plan to tell your parents when they ask what you're doing to give them peace of mind. Think of where you want to live. Do you want to go back home? Do you want to trek to Alaska and live on a mountainside? Go for it.

You just need SOMETHING. It's kind of like writer's block. You want everything to be perfect the first time, but usually, you have to write something pretty mediocre before you edit and make it sound good. Same goes with life. If you can't get out of your head and feel stuck making absolutely no decisions, you aren't going to get anywhere.

So start small. What do you feel most drawn to? Do the work that makes you happy to be alive. (But you also need to pay rent so if your passion is underwater basket weaving, you may need to reevaluate.) So, start with something. You can always switch careers later in life. Most people do. This isn't a life sentence. It's just a starting point.

You don't know the future, so don't stress yourself out trying to plan it. Baby steps are key. But you DO have to step, no matter how small.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, or Email!
@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmaiil.com

From one student to another

Jacob Ellis
Contributing Writer
SGA President



I hope everyone has had a great start to their semester. We've made it this far, so congratulations, Demons!

The work and attitude you put into your classes and your extracurricular activities now will determine the success for the rest of this semester. Part of being a Demon is to be dedicated to everything you put your mind to, whether that be your classes or your clubs and organizations.

I, as well as all of you, know the struggles of being a college student. There are deadlines and due dates, meetings and study groups, organizational activities and sports, and all the while, we're still trying to find time to get at least a little sleep.

Like you all, I have spent the all-nighters studying for that big test. The nights I spent in the library talking and laughing with friends seemed to make the seemingly impossible test a bit more bearable. I have also struggled with the age-old dilemma: To binge on Netflix, or to do the homework that I have been procrastinating. Thank goodness someone invented coffee, which has saved me countless times.

I'm also thankful for the mountainous terrain that we call the Kyser Staircase for keeping me active when all I want to do is go take a nap. The struggles and stresses of college life can be daunting at times, but we, the students at Northwestern State University, are capable of accomplishing whatever we set our minds to. We just need to remember to take a deep breath, relax, and enjoy the ride we call college.

The experiences, the trials and tests you have here will prepare you for life beyond those Northwestern gates. One day, you will look back fondly on the memories you made at NSU. So get involved, study hard and remember that the faculty, staff and administration are dedicated to your success.

It was never about the catsuit

Trinity Velazquez
Reporter



In a 1985 Wimbledon tournament, tennis star Anne White defied tradition by wearing an all-white bodysuit instead of a tennis skirt. She was told that she couldn't wear her all white body suit because it went against the rules. Sound familiar?

The black catsuit that was banned in the 2018 French Open only helped Serena Williams with blood flow. The suit didn't make her stronger or faster or a better player. The idea that Williams disrespected the sport of tennis by wearing the bodysuit outraged fans because the tennis star explained that she wore the ensemble both with her health in mind and to inspire new mothers.

I believe that no one has endured as much sexism and racism in the tennis realm as Serena has. She's been called unattractive for being muscular, made fun of for wearing beads in their hair and has been called disrespectful names on and off the court—all while breaking records, stereotypes and limits that have been thrown her way.

With everything she's been through, she continues to dominate the court even in a tutu. She proves that if something is taken away from a woman, she will find a way around and be better than before. Whatever life throws at us, we catch it and throw it back twice as hard.

It's not about the catsuit; it's about how people thought Serena wouldn't be able to play well anymore. It's about how everyone doubted her, just like women are doubted everywhere.

We can all learn from Williams' solution. She wore the tutu to say that no one respects the game more than her. She refuses to let this ridiculous ban cause her to back down or to live in fear.

THE CURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Why I chose social work

Brooke Perkins
Contributing Writer
NSU Alumna



Growing up, I always had a heart for people. Being able to help someone meant everything to me. I was a natural advocate and encourager without even really knowing it. Around senior year of high school, people began to ask, "So Brooke, what are you going to do with your life?" I didn't know. All I knew is that I wanted to help others, so that was my answer. "I just want to help people." My family and friends didn't know what to make of that.

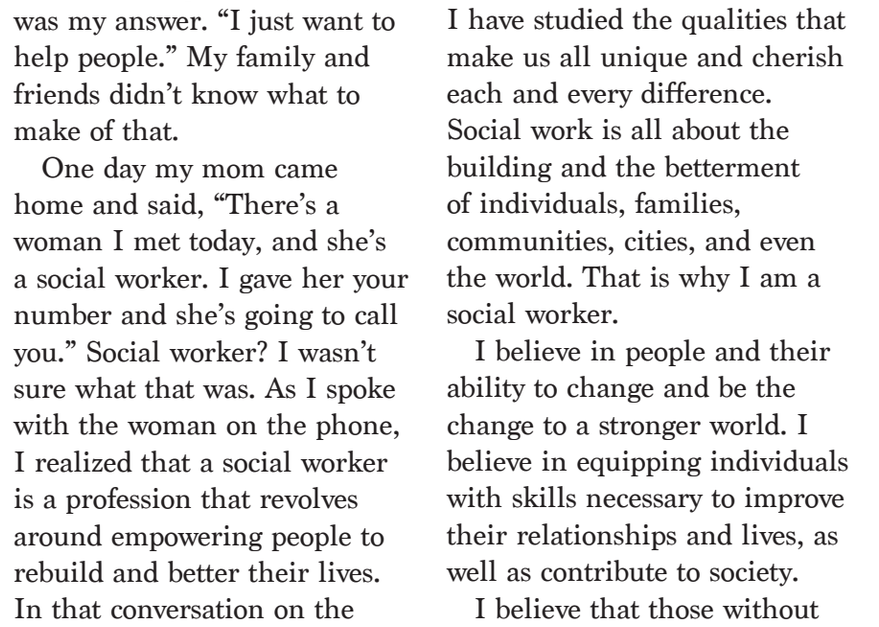
One day my mom came home and said, "There's a woman I met today, and she's a social worker. I gave her your number and she's going to call you." Social worker? I wasn't sure what that was. As I spoke with the woman on the phone, I realized that a social worker is a profession that revolves around empowering people to rebuild and better their lives. In that conversation on the phone, I knew I was destined to be one. I had been preparing all my life.

I enrolled at Northwestern State University in Fall of 2013 and fell in love with the classes. It was a perfect fit. I had amazing professors at NSU and met so many strong and professional women who I aspire to be like one day. I continued my studies and achieved my master's degree in social work and am now entering the work force.

I love social work because it has taught me how to empower people in ways I didn't know before. Because of social work, I have studied the qualities that make us all unique and cherish each and every difference. Social work is all about the building and the betterment of individuals, families, communities, cities, and even the world. That is why I am a social worker.

I believe in people and their ability to change and be the change to a stronger world. I believe in equipping individuals with skills necessary to improve their relationships and lives, as well as contribute to society.

I believe that those without a voice, such as children or elders, deserve one, and therefore, as a social worker, I am their voice and advocate. That is what a social worker is, and that is why I love being one.



NS *You: Your questions answered.*

How is the food at Iberville?



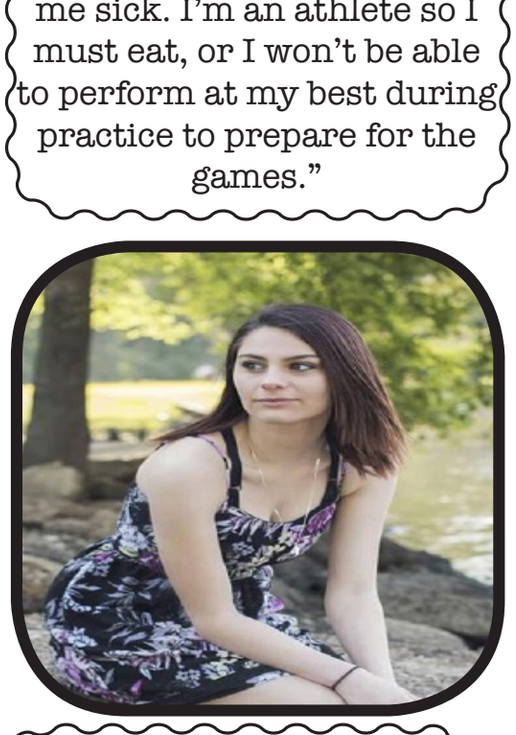
Kierra Linden,
Freshman, Business and Hospitality major
"It's horrible for me personally! I'm a cow vegan, and it feels like the only choices I have there are lettuce and cucumbers!"



Bishop Breaux,
Freshman, Engineering major.
"I don't like it. If you want me to be honest, it makes me sick. I'm an athlete so I must eat, or I won't be able to perform at my best during practice to prepare for the games."



Hannah Durigan,
Freshman, Biology major.
"It's really good compared to my high school's food, yuck! I love that you pay once and then you eat whatever you want, as many times as you want. I just wish there was more vegan choices for my friends though."



Madison Gautreaux,
Freshman, Criminal Justice major.
"The food at Iberville is okay. I feel like it's a quick and easy way to eat, but sometimes the lines are WAY too long for the burgers."

Quote of the week:

Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.
-Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson

New coach implements changes to Demon Crew

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

Northwestern State University's rowing team held an informational Tuesday, Sept. 4. detailing the Demon Crew's plans for the new year, as well as introducing their new coach, Jamie Lablor.

The team is currently offering two weeks free trial and a 10 percent discount on the $100 fee if paid before Sept. 19. The two weeks free trial gives students an opportunity to try rowing and see what it is about.

"The first week is going to be hard and trial for everyone that's why we are giving them free two weeks to decide if they want to do it," said President Stewart Sloan.

The team travels and attends several competitions throughout the year. Some locations they are visiting this semester include Nashville, Music City in Tennessee, and Little Rock, Arkansas. All expenses will be totally covered except for food. They pay for these trips with the student dues, and they also conduct several fundraisers during the semester.

Lablor is already implementing some changes to put them on the best route to success.

"I will be focusing on the type of races we will be having and depending on that I will determine what kind of practices we will be having," Lablor said. She plans to be "strict" but also "lenient" at the same time "because I don't want to scare students away from a sport that means so much to me."

The coach encourages everyone to join. "We are actually one of the cheapest sports clubs in NSU," she said.

Coach Lablor claims rowing is more competitive than football. "I am not downing football, but these kids paid to be here and practice five times a day." She claims rowers are self-motivated and they don't get paid to practice while football players get paid to do these things.

"Football players grew up playing football which they are fantastic at, but some rowers start later in life and they get to compete and win at very difficult levels."

The coach advised the new student to stick with it and try it out because her coach talked her out of leaving her team, and she went on to become a conference champion and a national runner-up. "I would not have done it if I had quit."

Senior, Blake Blanchard, joined the Crew his freshman year.

"I enjoyed traveling and meeting new people, so it was a bonus being on the team," Blanchard said. Blanchard has won over 5 medals.

To find out more information contact NSU Demon Crew contact at 318.357.5921 or nsudemoncrew@gmail.com



Demon Crew holds informational, with dozens of freshmen expressing interest. *Submitted Photo.*

Let's talk game guarantee

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

After a 4-7 season last year, going up against a big team like Texas A&M might not be seen as the best strategic move. $515,000 says otherwise.

As previously reported in The Current Sauce, that is the amount paid by A&M to Northwestern State University to play the game, which resulted in a brutal 57-7 loss for the Demons. But where does all that money go, exactly?

"My understanding is it goes to the general athletic fund," said Doug Ireland. "It does not go solely to football. It helps support scholarships and all sorts of different expenses for all of our athletic teams."

It turns out such payments are not at all uncommon.

"Of the 11 Southland Conference schools that play football, 10 are playing at least one [Football Bowl Subdivision] guarantee game," NSU Director of Athletics Greg Burke said. "Two of those schools are playing two guarantee games."

The university benefitted from almost $2 million worth of earned media as a result of the game, according to Director of Marketing and Branding Cole Gentry.

"I think it was absolutely worth it," said junior quarterback Shelton Eppler. "We got our name out there for Northwestern State University."

The game was followed by a more encouraging home opener Sept. 8, which resulted in a 34-7 win for the Demons. The team will head to Beaumont, Texas, Sept. 15 to face the Lamar Cardinals on their home turf.

With contributed reporting from Keator Poleman.



Senior Ysmina Smith, #5. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Lady Demons soccer team builds momentum

Matthew Craig
Reporter

The Lady Demons soccer team started off the first quarter of their season strong, riding a four game winning streak (5-2 overall) after back-to-back games in Demonland. Under the guidance of first year co-head coach Jess Jobe, the team is looking to continue their winning season at Stephen F. Austin on Sept. 14 and at LSU-Alexandria on Sept 16.

Jobe knows that continuing their streak relies on strong communication and increased pressure during practice times.

"[We are] continuously taking steps forward each day at practice just making the most of our opportunities to be together and work together and to grow and improve," Jobe said. "We need to work on communication and growing together and what are one and another tendency are and continue to move forward in that but we have a little way to go still. Every practice we need to be sharp and make the most of our opportunities and at games we look forward to playing other opponents and getting at it."

Like her coaches, Senior Defender Ysmina Smith agrees that improving communication and building chemistry between each others as players is going to be the key to the Lady Demons continuing their winning streak, and hopefully, making a run for the Southland Conference Championships.

"I'm feeling pretty confident, because I know we've been working really hard every day, really pushing each other to make each other better, so I hope this weekend we can go out and prove that we are the better team. We have so much potential to be great, we just need to strive for it," Smith said.

Junior Midfielder Jayden Wheeler believes the games they have coming up this weekend are going to be a challenge, because of the team's differences in their styles of play.

"I think with the two games coming up, the teams definitely have a different style of playing," Wheeler said. "If we stay focused, stick to what we know and play together, I think we will be fine."

Wheeler believes that if they continue to play the way they have been playing all season, then they will have a conference championship under their belt by the end of the season.

"Each game we feel like we are taking a step forward, and that's kind of the motto we keep going for," Wheeler said. "I think if we keep putting out the games that we've been putting out, we have a conference championship to win."

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the Current Sauce

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Waddell is crowned Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

Jourdan Waddell crowned 61st Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet

Jessica Gray
Public Relations Manager

Sophomore Jourdan Waddell was crowned the 61st Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet in A.A. Fredrick's Auditorium Saturday. Waddell, a psychology major from Slidell, Louisiana, also took home the Swimsuit, Talent and People's Choice Awards.

Waddell plans to use her personal platform for mental health awareness throughout the university.

"I work at the counseling office here at Northwestern, so having the opportunity to already work in the office is going to let me use this title to promote mental health with the students," said Waddell.

Placing first runner up was McKay Crews, a sophomore from Bossier City, Louisiana. Coming in second runner-up was Casey Sakai Williams, a sophomore from Leesville, Louisiana.

The outgoing Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet, Aly Jacobs, had some thoughtful words about her year as Lady of the Bracelet.

"It's a feeling that you can't describe," Jacobs said. "You get the opportunity to do that you wouldn't otherwise be able to do. As an individual [who has] done Freshman Connection and been super involved and did sorority life, it's nothing like that. I get to truly hold a tradition that 60 women before me got to hold, so it really sums up feeling inside of me that has been fantastic."

The emcee for the pageant was Miss Louisiana Holli' Conway.

Conway had just touched down in Louisiana a few days prior after competing for Miss America in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Conway performed her vocal talent "I Believe" by Fantasia Barrino.

"I felt enveloped in love, looking out into the audience after I sang and seeing them all standing up on their feet meant so much to me because I knew that I knew every one of them personally," said Conway.

The new Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet will go on to compete for the title of Miss Louisiana next summer, a title Waddell already competed for in June, where she placed in the Miss Louisiana top five.

Natchitoches gets an upgrade

Leanna Coy
Reporter

If you've recently driven into Natchitoches, you may have noticed a new sign greeting you. Natchitoches is currently in the process of being rebranded. This means that we can expect to start seeing small changes all across town.

Most notably, the phrase "Where History Lives" has been added to the welcome sign.

"The tagline was supported by a member of the community," Director of the Natchitoches Main Street Office Janna Jenkins said when discussing how the phrase was chosen. The new tagline is meant to embrace the history of Natchitoches while also giving it a new spin.

Aside from the welcome sign, residents may also notice some changes in the fonts, lettering, and logos around town. The colors will be brighter, the fonts will be modernized and the words will be a better reflection of Natchitoches' culture. To match the new style of the town, Natchitoches will even be getting a remodeled website.

Residents may be wondering why the rebranding was necessary in the first place. However, the last time Natchitoches got rebranded was years ago.

"Natchitoches has grown so the branding needed to grow with it," Natchitoches Director of Marketing and Communications Kelli West said. West also said that the changes will be gradual. "You may start to see it with the Christmas festival!"

Northwestern State University has had its own involvement with the rebranding project. The Director of First Year Experience and Leadership Development Vanner Erikson assured that no taxpayer money was used for the updates. Instead, all of the money came from local organizations.

"The Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission allocated around $20,000 for the project," Erikson said.

UNIVERSITY POLICE BLOTTER

9-4-18
Drug Law Violation- Caspari St

9-5-18
Drug Law Violation - UP2

9-7-18
Sexual Assault- UP2

9-8-18
Simple Battery- Turpin Stadium

9-8-18
Fight- Tupin Parking

9-8-18
Drug Law Violation- University Columns

9-10-18
Phone Harassment- University Columns

9-11-18
Vehicle Theft- Parking Lot 5

9 - 13- 18
Theft from Iberville

9 - 14- 18
Property Damage

9 - 16 - 18
Hit and Run

9 - 16 - 18
Disturbance - Parking 25

Louisiana attorney general request threatens transgender workers

Brian Jordan
Reporter

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry joins 15 other state Republican officials in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to reject workplace protections that would prevent transgender people from being fired for their gender identity.

Landry recently signed onto a 20-page briefing, asking that the Supreme Court overturn a case from the Federal 6th Circuit Court of Appeals that ruled a Michigan funeral home unlawfully fired a woman after she came out as transgender to her employer.

The court ruled that "discrimination against employees, either because of their failure to conform to sex stereotypes or their transgender and transitioning status, is illegal under Title VII."

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals further elaborated, stating that they used Title VII of the Civil Rights Act which "prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin" to include "sex" to cover a person gender identity.

This ruling has caused controversy, as the briefing states "The role of the courts is to interpret the law, not to rewrite the law by adding a new, unintended meaning."

The Republican briefing argues that the 6th Circuit's opinion below erases all common understandings of the term "sex" in Title VII, and expands it to include "gender identity" and "transgender."

The briefing stated: "When congress enacted Title 7, virtually every dictionary definition of sex referred to physiological distinctions between females, and males, particularly with respect to their reproductive functions."

"Regardless of whether the Title VII actually covers gender identity or sexual orientation, it's ridiculous that it's something that still needs to be said," said Arin, a Northwestern State University student who identifies as a non-binary transgender person and requested to only have their first name used. "It says it right there in the Constitution that 'all men are created equal.'"

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards is no stranger to the legal battle at hand. In 2016, he issued an executive order to place workplace protections for people inside the LGBT community, though this was stopped by Landry.

"I happen to think [Jeff Landry] is on the wrong side of history," Gov. Edwards told The Current Sauce. "I think the people of Louisiana are much more tolerant in terms of making sure people don't face discrimination."

"I know a good number of trans people who have been extremely afraid of coming out in their workplace because they were afraid of being fired, and I think that's something that no one needs to worry about," Arin said. "Especially when it's something that's part of your identity, that has nothing to do with how well you do your job."

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Governor visits Northwestern State



From left, LSMSA Executive Director Steve Horton, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards and NSU President Chris Maggio. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*



Boulders to be moved to Watson Library

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

Northwestern State University will be moving three large rocks to the bird sanctuary near Watson Library. The rocks were introduced to campus by Robert Crew, the assistant to former president Randall Webb.

The rocks are currently located in three locations near the WRAC, Caspari Hall and Varnado Hall. None are native to Natchitoches.



Betsy Cochran, Ecology professor in the Scholars' College, is one of the main instigators behind the rocks' removal.

"I wanted some rocks for the bird trail area in Dogwood Valley that's next to the library," Cochran said.

She added that people are currently parking underneath the trees. The rocks, once moved, will act as a barrier.

Thomas Whitehead, Professor Emeritus of the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts, has also called for the rocks to be moved.

"The area where those pretty rocks are all a national historic district," Whitehead said. "And you're not supposed to change it, particularly with a natural thing."

Gil Gilson, the Special Projects Coordinator, the rocks were requested to be moved by Whitehead. He added that they do not fit with the historic district.

The rock between CAPA and the Student Union will remain in place. At this time, no date has been set for removing the other rocks.



The three rocks will soon be moved to Watson Library. *Photos by Victoria Perkins.*



‘Spring Awakening’: Inside the mind of an actor



The cast of Spring Awakening perform a preview at Saturday’s Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet pageant. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

The Tony Award-winning show “Spring Awakening” is a rock musical set in 1891 Germany that deals with incredibly emotionally challenging themes.

As an actor, shows such as this can be very heavy and difficult to deal with. One must be able to revisit the topics each night with the same intent and emotion. In the society “Spring Awakening” is set in, these characters are forced to embrace and navigate their own sexuality and pubescence without the help of any adults, due to the fact that it is seen as vulgar. This show takes a stance on how we must educate our youth about sex and growing up, but it does so by very deeply shocking the audience.

“Spring Awakening” deals with some incredibly difficult topics that are a reality for even our society today such as abortion and suicide.

Each actor has a different way of being able to deal with such an emotionally taxing show. Rituals or barriers are often created to make sure that they do not become emotionally drain by the content of the show. As an actor, you must be able to put yourself in a show, but also be able to remove yourself each night so that you can live a successful life.

Emily Ricalde, who plays the female lead Wendla, explains that rehearsal each day begins with “angsty music in the style of the show like ‘Smells Like Teen Spirit’ by Nirvana and ‘Jump’ by House of Pain to help us create a bond of trust as an ensemble and to put us in the mindset of the teenagers we portray.” She then concluded that each night she must consciously emotionally step out of her character, “so that [she] leave[s] every experience as Wendla on the stage.”

“When you have such a wonderful and willing group of cast members everyone shares in the emotional moments together so it isn’t hard on just one single person,” said Trevor Brown, who portrays the male lead Melchoir.

Brown emphasized that each cast member is there for each other and are even able to “share those pains together.” In rehearsals he has found himself feeling as though he “need[ed] to step out of rehearsal for a few moments because of how taxing it is on me as Melchior, but I knew as soon as I got back into the space people would be there for me, to support me and to push me through those times that are hard.”

Emma Rivet, who is in the ensemble, said that “working with this subject matter definitely brings to light issues that we have in our own lives and in our own society.”

Rivet further explains that often she finds herself identifying with the characters of the show and it “forces you to face yourself to be able to truthfully tell the story.” For her, it is important to have a cast and production team that she can fully trust with how demanding and emotionally draining the show can be.

The show will be running on the stage of A.A. Fredericks in the round setting Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-6 at 7:30 p.m., as well as a matinée on Oct. 7 at 2 p.m.

The show is free for all students. To reserve seating contact Wanda Lucas at 318-357-4483.

‘Spider-Man’ PS4: a review

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Ever since I was young, I’ve been in love with the character Spider-Man. Out of any other Marvel or DC superhero, he was, and still is, my favorite.

When Sony and the company Insomniac announced their new Spider-Man video game back in 2016, I was excited but skeptical. With Spider-Man, I was really hoping this would be the title that would make me a fan of Insomniac games again and I’m happy to report that I got my wish.

Spider-Man, on PlayStation 4, is a technical marvel for the modern age. It is fun and one of the Insomnia’s best titles in their first party lineup.

If you are a fan of the Spider-Man character, there is a high probability you will love this game. Even if you are unfamiliar with anything regarding Spider-Man, the story itself is disconnected from the modern cinematic universe and is its own thing.

Fans of the Spider-Man universe will find familiar faces. The game allows for great character interactions between the main cast and the problems each are going through. The storyline is not groundbreaking by any means. For me, the game play is the most important.

The defining element of any Spider-Man game is ability to web sling around the city. The web slinging system was revolutionized with Treyarch’s 2004 game, “Spider-Man 2.”

Insomniac’s approach is the best it has ever been implemented. The way you web sling is always attached to the buildings, but you must keep in mind the momentum of your traversal around the city.

You must build up your speed in different ways. One way is by running up a building and attaching a web at the top to slingshot yourself over it.

As you level up, you unlock different abilities. While it might take some time to get used to the new system, by the end of the game you will become a true web-slinging master.

There is a lot to do outside the main storyline. You can collect backpacks, take pictures of city landmarks, or do side-quests that focus on different criminals.

While you are exploring the city, you can stop crimes in the town. The combat in Spider-Man is simple, yet satisfying.

Although it is not complex, it makes up for it with by having different crime fighting strategies. Some enemies have different ways in stopping them. It is not just simple button mashing. You must pay attention to certain enemy properties or you will be punished for it.

As the game progresses, you can unlock gadgets that can be used in combat to shoot different sorts of webs at enemies, such as the electric web, web bombs, or impact webs that can stick those criminals to the wall.

The game also includes a few stealth sections that can help you avoid combat entirely at different points in the story. The stealth moments usually boil down to finding the right enemy to take down without alerting anyone.

The problem with using it outside of the main campaign has to do with the enemy bases, which can be done at any time. There’s no point to stealth outside of the main quest line because, even in areas that allow for it, you still end up doing combat.

At certain points in the story, you take control of Mary Jane and Miles Morales. These sections were the low points of the game for me. You slowly sneak around enemies to avoid detection and do not have much variety early on in the game. The idea of these sections gets tiresome because they are heavily scripted, boring, and are mandatory.

While variety is commonplace in a lot of games, the ways Spider-Man tries to do it is less than stellar. There are sections in the game that use puzzles to make formulas, and to re-route voltages for machines. These sections may skipped or turned off completely in the main menu.

Another problem I had was the constant use of quick-time events. The scenes use timed button presses with your only input being to press a button at the right time.

While it can feel satisfying, the game uses it for moments that do not feel necessary. I do not feel like I accomplish anything spectacular when all I do is smash “square” to lift rocks while an epic orchestra plays in the background.

As for the games difficulty, the normal setting felt too easy. I started the game on hard and somewhat challenged, but at times even that felt easy.

While I do not usually talk about game graphics, I feel the amount of effort and attention to detail Insomniac put into every aspect of this game is phenomenal. From the different ways Spider-Man moves to the reflections off buildings. They made New York City feel alive.

Overall, I enjoyed my time with Spider-Man, and highly recommend it to fans and people who are interested in it. I would like to see how they improve upon the problems that I had with a sequel. This is Insomniac’s best game since 2004 and, as a first-party Sony title, it is easily their best in the lineup that will appeal to a lot of players.

Jennifer Hayghe comes to town







The Louisiana Piano Series International (LPSI) began in May 2002. Right, Jennifer Hayghe performs at Magale Recital Hall on Sept. 13. Left, students and faculty pose with Hayghe.
Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.

Eyes of Argus: *Memories*

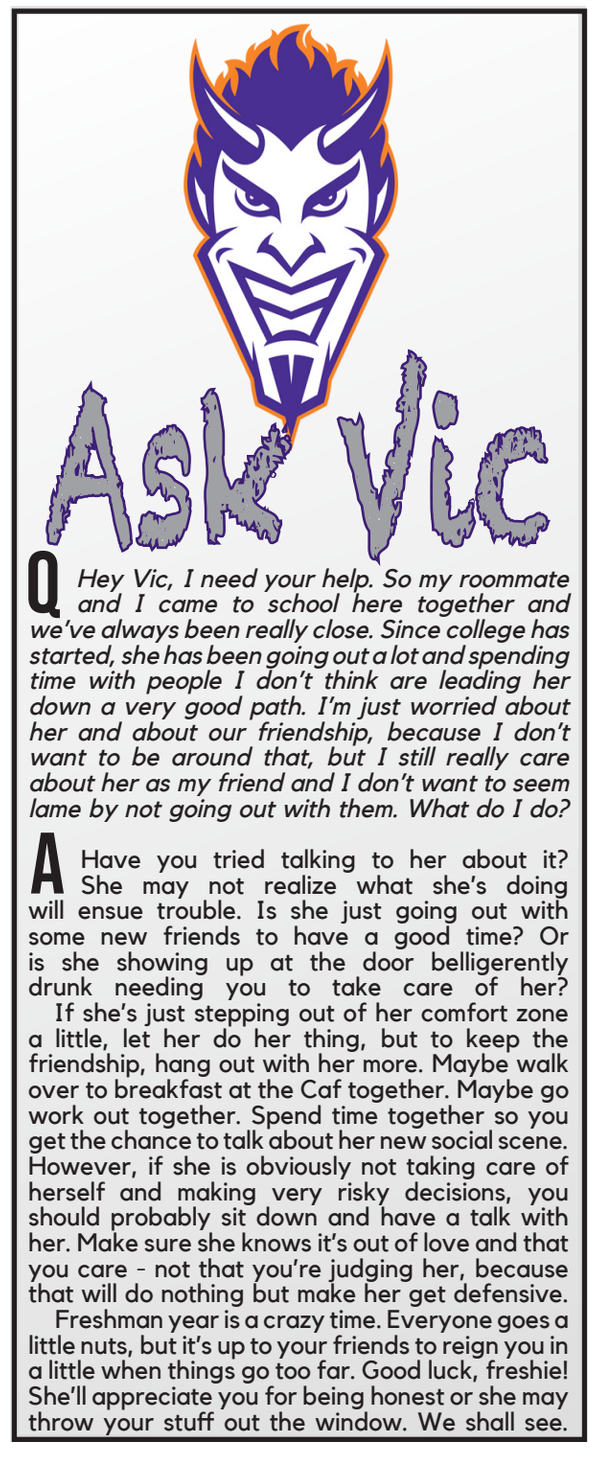
The lines of poetry write themselves
Like the lines of time
Spreading over the page
by ink stained fingers
Producing a blackened image
Filled with the figure
Of Hindsight
In all her glory.

Hindsight desperately clings
To the memories Time
Has afforded her to see
Through rose colored glasses
Obscuring reality

She mourns for the life
Tainted by faded memories
Jaded by the grass that
Is greener on the other
Side of fantasies.

Hindsight is clothed in the dreams
Of her youth and chained by the
Desperate need to succeed.

She is always haunted by the dreams
That were kidnapped and killed by reality.



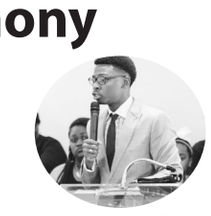
Q *Hey Vic, I need your help. So my roommate and I came to school here together and we’ve always been really close. Since college has started, she has been going out a lot and spending time with people I don’t think are leading her down a very good path. I’m just worried about her and about our friendship, because I don’t want to be around that, but I still really care about her as my friend and I don’t want to seem lame by not going out with them. What do I do?*

A Have you tried talking to her about it? She may not realize what she’s doing will ensue trouble. Is she just going out with some new friends to have a good time? Or is she showing up at the door belligerently drunk needing you to take care of her?

If she’s just stepping out of her comfort zone a little, let her do her thing, but to keep the friendship, hang out with her more. Maybe walk over to breakfast at the Caf together. Maybe go work out together. Spend time together so you get the chance to talk about her new social scene. However, if she is obviously not taking care of herself and making very risky decisions, you should probably sit down and have a talk with her. Make sure she knows it’s out of love and that you care - not that you’re judging her, because that will do nothing but make her get defensive.

Freshman year is a crazy time. Everyone goes a little nuts, but it’s up to your friends to reign you in a little when things go too far. Good luck, freshie! She’ll appreciate you for being honest or she may throw your stuff out the window. We shall see.

New foundation: My family's testimony



Darius Ardoin
Contributing Writer

My family has always been in church and we've always been believers. However, God hasn't always been the center of our family's life.

For a long time, I've prayed for my family to grow closer to God, that He would be the foundation of our family. Honestly, through the years, it hasn't been my most consistent prayer. However, it has always been one of my heart's deepest desires.

As a family, we've been through so much together. We've been through each other's personal struggles, and our struggles together as a family. Nevertheless, through the struggles, God has always been faithful to see us through.

As time went on, I began to see my family submit and devote our lives to God. And let me tell you this: It didn't happen overnight. It was a journey. Through all that we had been through, God was changing our hearts the entire time. Even we couldn't see it in ourselves. I remember when we were all together standing at the altar at church asking them to pray for us as we begin making Him the head of our family. It was then that things began to change.

The moment we decided to make God the head of our family's life, he immediately went to work. I know that my mom and step-dad always worked hard and they both had good jobs, however when Jesus got involved, my mom got hurt on her job and she wasn't getting paid for it. Also, my step-dad got laid off of his job for at least a month. All of this happened once we finally decided to put our trust in Him and make him the head of our lives.

At this point I'm asking God the same question you may be asking as you read this: WHY!? It didn't make sense to me. I've been praying for this for a long time, and I know that this is something that not only I wanted, but something he always wanted as well. It took us a long time to get to this place and now this? Everything seemed to be going in reverse. Why is it that the first thing he does is take away the one thing that was our family's security and comfort?

Through much prayer, the answer became clear. If we wanted God to be the center and the foundation of our family, He would have to strip us of the old foundation that was in place before him. Honestly, hearing that from him gave me peace about what was going on, but going through that with him was nothing short of a challenge. But challenge is good. Challenging our faith and our dependency upon God strengthens us. We had to trust that though the rug was being pulled from under us, God was going to be faithful and replace it with Him. Our solid rock and our strong foundation. Faithful He is and faithful He has shown us to be. Because through it all, we never lacked. Bills were paid, needs were met, and above all else we were growing closer to God. Often times the painful parts of our journey with God are shaping up to be the most beautiful part of our journey.

So let the posture of our hearts be the same when God is taking away as it is when God is giving. Because there's no greater 'thing' that we're asking for that is greater than what God has wrapped up within himself to give to us.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." -Matthew 7:24-25

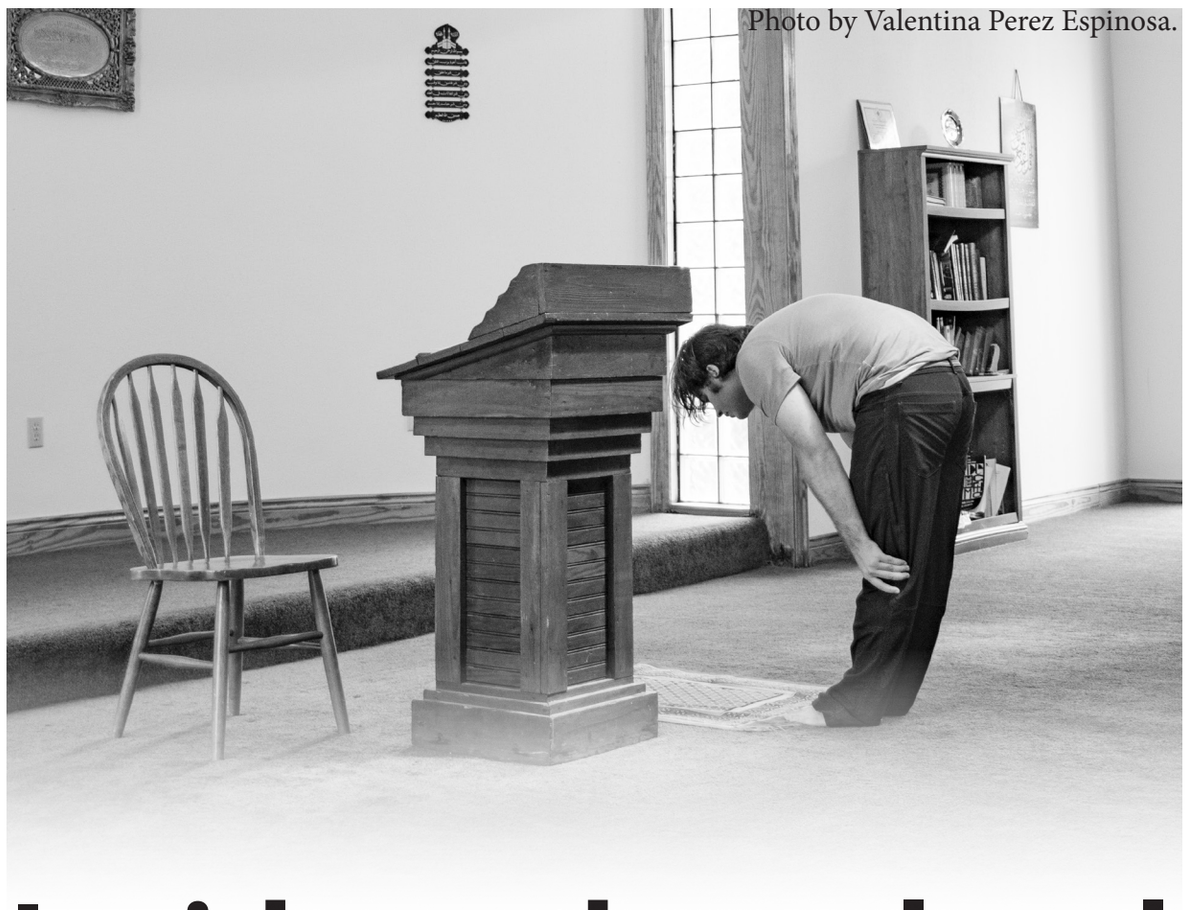


Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.

Inside the local Muslim community



Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

Being a Muslim in the United States can sometimes be difficult with all the stereotypes depicted in the media. The association of violence and terrorism with Islam drives people away.

"A lot of times, I think, we as Muslims have taken the backseat and given, especially people that are opposed to Islam, the right to interpret the religion for us," Rasul Abdullah, one of the elders of the Natchitoches Islamic Center, said.

Muslims are almost fully isolated from the community. They are not given a chance to explain or show others what Islam really is. People are skeptical and believe negative stories, told by the media, about us.

"In the clear reality, the people that know us know we are not terrorist nor do we support it," Abdullah said.

The Quran condemns violence and promotes good will. Quran 5:32 states, "Whoever kills a person is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind."

The news has a way of painting with a broad brush and a dominating voice. They show every little bad thing a Muslim does, but not the good.

The Natchitoches Muslim population is small, but that does not stop us from constantly striving to make a difference. The elders at the mosque cook from home or in the mosque and drive around during their spare time, feeding the lower-class people of the community.

I had the pleasure of cooking for Asmar Akbar, an elder at the mosques, and we were able to feed and give cold water to a total of 41 people on a hot Saturday afternoon. Akbar draws his inspiration from the prophet Joseph to help people.

"He was so generous, whenever you go to his house he will always offer you some food. That inspired me a lot to want to feed people and be charitable," Akbar said.

"We definitely want more students to learn more about Islam, but it is hard to approach them," Deontra Thomas, founder of the Muslim Student Association, a Muslim organization at Northwestern State University.

The mosque was intentionally built close to NSU in the early 2000s.

"We know some student would like to visit or come for prayer, so we made it easy for them," said Akbar.

The Muslim community's driven purpose is to help and progress the community. We condemn violence and strive to promote our relationship with NSU and the community.

Abdullah reminded me of a quote from the prophet Muhammad: "The best of you is the one that is most beneficial to humanity."

Whether you are skeptical about Islam or are unsure of what it is, the mosque is always open and welcomes visitors. Go and satisfy your curiosity and draw your own conclusion about Muslims and Islam. The mosque is located at 125 Caspari St.

Quote of the week:

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
-Aristotle

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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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What should be done with the empty room in the Student Union?

Trinity Velazquez Viewpoints Editor





Students need more fun on campus because it gives them a distraction from their busy lives. If there is a lack of recreational spaces, then students are left to group in areas meant for studying, which can increase campus wide stress. How am I supposed to study if there are people just hanging out in the student union? Everyone loves when people sing and play the piano after classes or when students involved in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries come and have everyone join in praise.

Point is, the Friedman Student Union is fun, and it needs to remain that way. There doesn't need to be any kind academic space in the Union. The idea of putting quiet study rooms in the loudest building on campus makes absolutely no sense.

We don't need more academic spaces; we need a separation from them. We have labs on every floor of Kyser, there are some in Russell Hall, Bienvenu and the Teacher Education Center. Watson Library has private study rooms, a large computer lab and don't forget that the 3-story building has plenty of space to study and do homework.

Turning the empty space into something more fun gives us endless ideas, the space could be an indoor pool, a roller-skating rink or a gaga ball pit. If we have something that contributes to having more fun on campus, then that creates an opportunity for students to interact with one another more. Students need a safe space on campus to relax, socialize, and be comfortable; this is why I am advocating for more fun on our beloved campus.

Jacob Bennett Editor-in-Chief





One day last semester, one of my fellow students in a class I was in had several questions to ask the teacher. This guy was genuinely interested in the material and wanted to understand it fully.

Upon leaving that class, though, I overheard two other students making fun of him.

"Why'd he ask so many questions?" one wondered aloud, giggling. "That's so weird."

I've noticed this discouraging trend my entire time in college. My generation seems to be more obsessed with having a degree than gaining the knowledge that one is supposed to acquire while earning it. I am certainly not immune. Why go above and beyond when there are shows to binge-watch on Netflix and countless hours to waste on social media?

But I fear we've reached a point where, for most of us, our fun input has exceeded our learning input. This is not a problem that will correct itself. That's why I propose the Friedman Student Union's empty downstairs room be used for educational purposes of some variety as opposed to something more "hip" that students will lose interest in within weeks.

It's not good that the university has to promote education to encourage interest, but I believe that's where we're at. The empty room could easily be used for a new research center—there is no limit to the topics that it could study. It could also be divided into more studios for CAPA students to practice their instruments, or perhaps a "museum" of sorts related to Natchitoches history. Even a new 24/7 computer lab would contribute towards educational purposes.

But please, God, anything but something purely related to the entertainment industry that we're already too obsessed with.

Subtle but decisive plays swung Southland opener NSU's way Saturday night

Doug Ireland
Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director



Austyn Fendrick, #48. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Case in point: Northwestern State's 49-48 victory Saturday night at Lamar in the Southland Conference opener for both teams.

Attention-grabbing plays abounded from the Demons. Quarterback Shelton Eppler shattered NSU records with 474 passing yards, 469 total offensive yards and six touchdown passes. His last two went to Jazz Ferguson, whose go-ahead 70-yard twisting, one-hand catch and run TD was third overnight on the ESPN SportsCenter Top 10 Plays of the Day feature.

The margin of victory was provided with 2:38 remaining when defensive tackle O'shea Jackson powered through and deflected Lamar's final extra point try. The Demons picked up a pair of first downs after the kickoff to run out the clock.

"It doesn't get any more special than O'Shea Jackson's blocked PAT," said Demons' first-year coach Brad Laird. "But that made the difference because Austyn Fendrick and our kicking team went seven-for-seven after having some problems a week earlier on placement kicks (having a PAT and field goal blocked in a 34-7 win over Grambling). Executing well on what should be seven routine plays was decisive."

Erasing the game's final 2:38 was triggered by a 16-yard connection between Eppler and Jaylen Watson on second-and-10 at the NSU 20.

After the catch, Watson juked free of a tackler, and headed downfield near the Cardinals' sideline. Instead of surging forward into defenders several yards upfield, Watson tucked the ball and slid down untouched at the 36.

"A play that is easily overlooked, but was so impressive," said Laird. "Jaylen had the presence to stay in bounds and keep the clock moving. Normally you fight for every yard but the best play at that moment was to take a slide and not give Lamar a free timeout by getting run out of bounds. You coach that, but to see it done smartly at that point was tremendous." The demons applied the finishing touch on the next snap.

"The O-line executes perfectly, Jared West hits the seam and goes 40 yards for another first down and that secured the game for us," said Laird. "It was the knockout punch."

NSU (2-1 overall, 1-0 in the Southland) was dominant for the game's first 24 minutes, roaring to a 28-0 lead before Lamar cut the margin in half in the final six minutes before intermission. The Cardinals continued their surge after halftime, forging ties at 28 and 35, but never capturing the lead.

"I was proud of our resiliency and to continue to find a way to win," said Laird.

"That win will there were a lot of situations we can learn from, in order to be more consistent down the road.""The O-line executes perfectly, Jared West hits the seam and goes 40 yards for another first down and that secured the game for us," said Laird. "It was the knockout punch."

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"Obviously it was a great performance, but more important than the yards and touchdowns were the decisions he was making, making the right read, letting our receivers make plays. Sure enough, with the receiving corps, those guys made things happen, because our offensive line gave Shelton time to operate with good protection.

"The offense got in a rhythm early and got in a rhythm late. The strong finish allowed us to win," said Laird.

Notching a road win, and overcoming adversity to do so, was especially gratifying for Laird and his team, which gets an open date this Saturday.

"Teaching off a win is so much more enjoyable," he said. "We've got things in all three phases to improve upon during the week, and we're going out there Tuesday to address those aspects."

NSU will work out three times this week before enjoying Friday and Saturday off before game week work resumes for the visit to Southeastern Louisiana on Sept. 29.



Kylee Dominy, #7. *Photo by Chase Slater.*

Wins and losses for the Lady Demons

Matthew Craig
Reporter

Last weekend, the Lady Demons played their last non-Conference game against LSU-A with a 5-0 win, and started conference play with a 0-1 loss against SFA. Going into the weekend, the Lady Demons were riding a four game winning streak, which ended at SFA. NSU Co-Head Coach Jess Jobe knew they had opportunities to win against SFA, but they missed on them, and allowed a well-organized team to take advantage of that.

"We know it's still stinging a little bit, we know our players really wanted that one and fought hard for it. I thought they did well enough to deserve a point, if not three. They put a lot of things together and it was a good performance overall. We did out shoot them. We held their chances to a minimum. Unfortunately, we weren't able to fit it in the back of the net for us and gave them an opportunity and they took it and that's what we expected from a good team. SFA is a good team and they are well organized."

The Lady Demons out shot SFA 18 to 4, but lost 1-0. However, they were able to bounce back in a shutout win against LSU-A 5-0. Jobe believes that win will carry into this Friday against McNeese, as conference play continues. "I thought the girls handle it well. I thought they bounce back well and did what we needed to do. We scored more goals and posted a shutout and continue to take a step forward. That's something we talked about. Sunday was either going be a step forward or a step backwards. Not something we was just going be able to slip through so I thought they stepped up so we can move on to McNeese Friday."

The Lady Demons continue conference play this weekend on the road Friday against McNeese and Lamar Sunday. McNeese finished top 3 in conference last year, and Lamar won the Southland Conference Championship. Sophomore defender Robyn Larson was sidelined for both games this past weekend, but will be back in action this upcoming weekend. Larson is excited to start conference play and looks forward to this week, but she knows there are areas to improve on going forward.

"I feel like we can do a better job at putting the game away and getting better shots at the goal. LSU-A and SFA are two different teams, but I feel we came out in both games with great energy and feel like that energy can carry over to this weekend against McNeese and Lamar," said Larson

Freshmen forward Jalen Donaldson believes the team came out pretty confidently in both games, and played well enough to win both. The team did a good job working together and knows if they work together this week, then they can win both games.

"We came out pretty confident, played together and worked hard this past weekend and I feel like if we come out the same way this weekend then we can come back with wins," said Donaldson. Southland Conference is a tough conference to play in and Jobe believes the team handled the first taste of conference well. Even though they lost against SFA on Friday, they were able to get the win Sunday against LSU-A, and look to continue their winning this Friday.

"It was our first taste of conference play, an idea of what a stronger opponent in the conference is going offer so that was a great experience for us and I think that injected a lot of belief into our coaching staff and our players. That ever game from here on out we can win and we can step on the field and be confidence that we can give ourselves chances to be successful," said Jobe.



Reagan Rogers keeps her eye on the ball. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Athlete of the week: Reagan Rogers

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

Setting, spiking, and digging, while unfamiliar to some, are all second nature to Reagan Rogers, our athlete of the week.

She hails from Blanco, Texas, a town in between Austin and San Antonio. The family atmosphere and small-town vibe of Natchitoches is what drew Regan to attend NSU, as it reminds her of home.

As a senior at Blanco High School, Reagan led her team to a perfect 12-0 mark in district play and a regional appearance, ranking second in the nation in kills among all outside hitters.

She has continued this trend of success at the collegiate level, being named to the 2017 First-Team All-Louisiana, 2017 First-Team All-Southland Conference, and 2017 First-Team Academic All-Southland Conference. The 2017 season also saw her collect the second most kills in single season history (427), as well as lead the Southland Conference in points (299.5) and kills (256) in conference matches.

Rogers, now in her senior year, is looking to not only dominate the conference athletically, but also set herself up academically for life post-graduation.

An HMT major specializing in Hospitality Services, Rogers plans on doing her internship this spring with our athletics program at NSU. Following graduation, she wishes to be a Graduate Assistant with NSU Volleyball while she completes her graduate program in Sports Administration.



the Current Sauce

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Early Halloween comes to NSU with 'hair-raising' tour

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Northwestern State University's annual Myths and Legends Tour is hosted by First Year Experience and is designed to give students a "hair-raising" experience. The event also highlights parts of the school's intriguing history.

During the tour, students can expect to visit some of the university's historical areas and learn about local legends.

"It's such a fun night where students can come out, mingle, and really learn about what makes Northwestern such a unique and special place," said Zachary Breaux, external affairs commissioner of First Year Experience, who is involved in coordinating the event.

"I've never been on the tour, but I'm excited to go this year," said freshman Kiley Credeur. "It sounds fun."

Each stop on the tour doubles as a stop on the Demon Poker Run. The student with the best hand at the end of the night will be awarded a prize.

The Myths and Legends Tour kicks off a month-long hunt to find Isabella, the ghost that's been said to haunt NSU for years. A hint will given each day of October as to her location. In the end, the participant that finds her receives a cash prize.

Students that have been to the event before eagerly recommend it.

"I went on the tour last year and would gladly do it again," said sophomore Mya Melancon.

The event will take place at the NSU Columns on Normal Hill tomorrow, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. Admission is free.



Northwestern State University students Charles McClintock and Leann Wills loaded cleanup buckets onto a truck for delivery to the United Methodist Center on Relief Tuesday. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

NSU sends cleanup buckets to Carolinas

Leah Jackson
Director of Public information and Media Relations

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University student groups responded to hurricane cleanup efforts by collecting and filling 100 cleaning kit buckets that will be transported to the Carolinas to help those affected by Hurricane Florence. NSU's Student Government Association provided funds to purchase buckets and provided a list of specific items for clubs, Greek organizations and other student groups to fill the buckets.

"The student response has been overwhelmingly positive," said Jacob Ellis, Student Government Association president. "The students have really gotten on board with this project in support of the hurricane relief. I was very pleased with the student participation, and it shows that our student body can be united by a common cause for the aid and support of others. Projects like these make me proud to be a Demon."

Dr. Curt Phifer, professor of biology, spearheaded the effort and oversaw students loading the buckets into a trailer Tuesday morning that he drove to the United Methodist Center on Relief in Baldwin. From there, they will be shipped to affected areas. Phifer, who has spearheaded flood relief efforts on campus in the past, said UMCOR had trucks ready to roll to the Carolinas before the storm was over and has since sent loaded 18-wheelers to flooded areas.

The 5-gallon buckets are stocked with detergents, brushes, bug spray, clothespins, trash bags, gloves and other items with instructions on how to assemble each bucket.

Students on NSU's Shreveport campus contributed by purchasing 500 N-95 masks that were not available in Natchitoches. Other student groups volunteered to check each bucket to make sure all requested supplies were included.

Students were encouraged to participate through a competition to see who could fill the most buckets. Winners were Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and Alpha Lambda Delta first-year honor society.

HOTsauce

Editor's Note: Back in the 1970s, The Current Sauce ran a recurring column called "Hot Sauce," where any student could submit a question directly to NSU's president, and he would answer them in the following issue. NSU President Chris Maggio decided to help us bring that column back.

Q: What's your best memory as an undergrad at NSU?

A: Wow, that is a tough question. I had so many and truly enjoyed my time at NSU. As many of you know, I was a student athlete, so I fondly remember competing against other schools along with my teammates and winning a conference track and field championship. Although it wasn't a happy occasion, I also recall historic Caldwell Hall burning down my freshman year. The entire student body watched the huge blaze and the attempts to save the building.

Q: How has NSU changed since you've been here?

A: Our old residence halls (Sabine and Rapides dorms) have been torn down and replaced with University Place and University Columns, and obviously technology has changed everything. For example, to register for classes, we had to wait in lines all day at Prather Coliseum to get our classes and fee payment!

Q: If you could change one thing about campus, what would it be?

A: A new academic building is my dream. We are working diligently through the state capital outlay process for a "new Kyser Hall" for our students and faculty. Obviously, this process takes time but this would be the biggest change that I would like to see.

Have a question for President Maggio? Submit them at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com. Nothing's off-limits!



An anonymous woman smokes her Juul. *Stock photo.*

Up in smoke: Inside the rise of e-cigarettes

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

The use of e-cigarettes, otherwise known as vaping, has been growing at an unprecedented rate over the past few years. Cigarettes are regulated heavily and are a major cause of death to chronic users. Consumers are eager to switch to what has been deemed a "healthier alternative."

E-cigarettes simulate the feel of smoking, but do not contain tobacco. Studies have shown that it is less dangerous for your health, and the culture around it makes it popular with young people.

For example, Juul is a company that has used social media and youth appeal to grab a hold of over half the e-cigarette market.

While none of them contain tobacco, the main ingredient in these electronic cigarettes is still the main addictive component of tobacco, nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive, and can cause damage to the heart, reproductive system, lungs, kidneys and aid in the development of cancer cells.

While some e-cigarettes have nicotine free options, other toxins can be found in e-cigarettes: compounds like formaldehyde, nitrosamines, lead, and silicate, which can still cause damage to your body.

"I don't really think about the health drawbacks," said one NSU student who requested anonymity. "But I only use it recreationally because I don't want my lungs to wind up black."

The vaping industry has been largely unregulated in the United States since they are tobacco free. This makes it easy in some states to purchase them, especially for minors.

While this lack of regulation increases sales and expansion, it fails to regulate youth consumption of these products. Nicotine has been shown to be detrimental to the still-developing brains of minors and can lead to a life-long battle with addiction.

It is for this reason that some cites like Boston, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles have restricted their use, with states like Utah, New Jersey and North Dakota banning them outright.

The culture around vaping started underground, but has been growing more mainstream with its popularity among young people.

Around campus, Francis Conine recalled the only time she's had a problem with vaping: when a student vaping in the Student Services building set off the alarm, forcing everyone to evacuate the building.

While vaping has proven useful to those adults who wish to quit smoking cigarettes, it is important for those who choose to recreationally use e-cigarettes to understand the risks associated with using these devices.

Natchitoches priest addresses national Catholic sex abuse scandal

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

The United States of America is currently undergoing an era of #MeToo—a movement of empowerment seeing previously silent victims of sexual assault expose their abusers. It would seem this reckoning has spread to religious institutions.

In August, a grand jury in Pennsylvania found that some 300 priests molested over 1,000 children and seminarians over a 70-year period. Those include former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. The grand jury also accused Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the current archbishop of Washington D.C. of covering up the abuse.

Rev. Blake Deshautelle is the main pastor at Natchitoches' Immaculate Conception and, like many priests, is grappling with how to respond to allegations of child sex abuse in the Roman Catholic Church.

The community seems unconcerned, despite the serious charges made against the Catholic Church, Deshautelle said. No one has come forward with abuse claims, he added.

"Hopefully no one's been abused. Now if someone has been abused, hopefully they will come forward," the priest said.

"A lot of times, the victims are sitting back and watching," he said. The priest added that many victims will wait until somebody else comes forward. They watch to see how the accusers are treated.

Deshautelle is also pastor of St. Mary's High in Natchitoches. Its student population ranges from pre-K to senior level classes, with many identifying as non-Catholic.

Deshautelle said he has not addressed the sex abuse scandal with students, and he does not know how many are aware of it. Deshautelle said they will eventually have to address it.

In regard to why McCarrick and others were not reported earlier, Deshautelle said "there is a grossly unhealthy sense of 'I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine.'"

Deshautelle said he was in seminary during the sex scandal of 2002. He said the abuse by McCarrick was an open secret and that people knew about it. The priest added McCarrick's attraction to younger seminarians.

Recently, archbishop Carlo Vigano, a high-ranking member of the church wrote a letter accusing the pope of knowing about McCarrick's actions. Vigano has called on Pope Francis to resign.

Deshautelle said the accusations made by Vigano need to be looked into.

"If the truth came to light, and heaven forbid if it is true, then the Holy Father would have a very difficult decision to make," Deshautelle said.

Deshautelle explained, under canon law, the pope has sole authority to punish abusive clergymen. Priest may be removed from the priesthood. They may also be forbidden from appearing in public, celebrating Mass or the sacraments.

The pope can also commit a priest to a life of prayer and penance, and excommunicate him from the faith. Given the long history of abuse, many cases fall outside the statutes of limitations.

Prior to the recent scandal, a report written by the National Review Board, a Catholic organization, found that as many as 7,664 valid cases involving 12,813 children were abused in Louisiana between the years 1950 and 2002.



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Tailgating: an American tradition meets Demon pride

Madison Farquar
Contributing Writer

Football, barbeque and beer: three American traditions. Which is exactly what one would find outside Northwestern State University's Turpin Stadium on Sept. 8, the day of the school's season opener against Grambling.

As soon as you pass through the Prather Coliseum parking lot and into Pitchfork Pass, the designated student tailgate area, your senses are bombarded from every direction.

The smell of grilling meat pierces through the thick, muggy air.

Nicki Minaj's "Fefe" blares over two professional speakers guarded by Pi Kappa Phi pledges. The bass rumbles, shaking the ground.

An assortment of Pi Kappa Alpha brothers quickly form a straight line to catch the next verse of Poppa Hussein's "I'm Lit."

Other students gather in the middle of the field to compete against each other in a round of volleyball. The lush, green grass they are standing on saves the feet of those who no longer are wearing shoes.

Girls' screams penetrate the wall of music while reuniting with long lost sorority sisters.

A Kappa Alpha alumni reminisces with an active member over a Natty Light.

Everywhere you look there are people of different ages and different walks of life, all involved in different organizations. What connects this assorted group of humans? School spirit.

"My favorite part about tailgating is seeing all of the student body gather in the same place knowing that we are all there for one common purpose: to rally before we go cheer on our fighting demons," says Inda Gurley, 20.

In fact, school spirit has turned tailgating into a sport of its own.

Multicolored tents lined in rows cover intricately set up lounge areas, holding tailgaters for hours before kickoff.

At the very right of Pitchfork Pass you will find two extremely large wooden letters. The letters read "Kappa Sigma" in Greek.

Behind these mountainous letters lies a full-size jon boat filled with ice, bottled water and Natty Light. Behind that lies three couches and a functioning television.

Completing this parking lot penthouse is nothing less than a trailer holding an industrial size smoker.

"Forty more minutes on the tenderloin," yells out Martin Gould, 22, holding a spatula in one hand, a beer in the other.

Sprinting towards the Kappa Sigma tent with a hearty grin on his face is an unexpected fan, a Labrador retriever named Jax.

According to his dad, the honorary Kappa Sigma brother loves being around large groups of people.

"He loves tailgates and people, so every chance I get to bring him around people, I do," says Josh Hickman, 20, smiling as he watches his dog greet new people.

As the young lab wanders throughout the crowd of tailgaters there is no shortage of smiles. Jax approaches a small circle of giggly girls and is immediately greeted by head scratches and words of affirmation.

Other admirers greet Jax with torn pieces of hamburger or hot dog, plenty of water and even more loving gestures.

It's not a coincidence that Jax is a tailgate superstar; it seems to run in the family.

"I love tailgating because there's nothing better than spending time with the boys and watching football," Hickman says.

Hours after it began, tailgating leaves Pitchfork Pass covered in red Solo cups, beer cans and paper napkins.

A freshman girl fixes her lipstick in the front camera of her iPhone.

A shirtless pledge begins picking up the trash surrounding his tent.

A circle of students shotgun one last beer.

"I'm Lit" once more blares in the distance over a speaker, but this time no one dances.

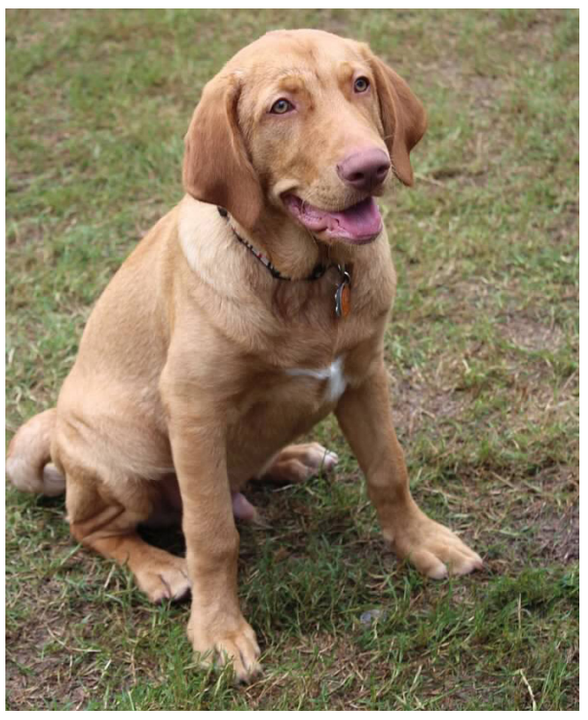
An older man wakes up from a nap on a tent-covered couch, wiping his eyes and staring at his phone screen.

The NSU fight song begins booming loudly from Turpin Stadium.

All around the tailgate field people begin to wander towards the sound of NSU school spirit.

Jamie Phillips, 20, begins walking toward the blaring sound, her arms around her two best friends. She steps over a red Solo cup and onto the concrete path.

"It's game time," she says.





Jax, a labrador retriever, enjoys his time tailgating (top); Josh Hickman, Harrison Thomas, and Connor Balthazar pose with Jax at the Kappa Sigma tailgate (bottom). *Photos by Madison Farquar.*

Ask Vic

Q *Hey Vic, I want to drop a class because I'm pretty sure I'm going to fail. Can I still do that? I don't want to hurt my GPA. Does that look bad if I do?*

A Have no fear! W's don't mean diddly squat. Well, they do a little bit - don't let them add up because your transcript will look real wonky with a capital W - but if you haven't dropped anything yet, by all means, drop that class. If you KNOW you're going to fail, better to take a W than an F. A W won't hurt your GPA, but an F will sink it faster than you can say fork 'em.

You have until Oct. 22. Best not to have more than three or so W's on your transcript, but it's always better than having an F. *Or* if you just don't like the class, suck it up and pass it because it sucks having to take the same class over again.

You've already invested a month's work into it. If you can, stick it out. But if you haven't turned in any homework or failed all your exams, well, best to drop it.

Fork 'em,
Vic

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!
@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

NSU choirs to showcase talent

Kathleen Hilliard
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. the four choirs featured at Northwestern State University will unite under one roof and offer a hint of what's to come this year.

Starting only last year, the Choral Preview that will be featured in the Magale Recital Hall is something choir director Nicholaus Cummins describes as "an event where all the choirs could sing together" and be an audience with each other to provide a chance to grow.

"It lets us see as a choir where we are. It's just better," said choir member Lee Whitney, who has been a member of both the Lyrica and Chamber choirs for the past three years.

The preview also allows the choir to be able to branch out and "think of ourselves as a choral program and not like individual choirs." This preview is one of many concerts the choirs take part in locally and while travelling, and is one of the most challenging due to it occurring so early in the year.

"This makes us push everything up much faster," Cummins said. "Normally, we don't perform until late October so everyone has to up their game. They have to learn faster."

The four choirs that will be singing in the preview will be the concert choir, the Lyrica choir, the Chamber choir and the men's chorus and will present a variety of different styles in their sets.

"It's called a preview concert because each ensemble isn't showcasing all of their music yet," said freshman Chamber choir member Sarah Palmintier. "I think that great things are in store."

One set will be inspired by places around the world such as Brazil, India and Spain, while another set will be more spiritual sounding music.

"It's not your typical music. It's very different. It's a crowd pleaser, in my opinion," Whitney said.

The origins of creating the event that premiered last fall centered around community and unity.

"I wanted to let people know that [the students] were all really talented" Cummins said, adding that he wanted the students "to think of themselves not as separate entities but they're all under this overarching umbrella that is the whole program."

The Choral Preview will provide an opportunity to see the diverse range of vocal talent that Northwestern State boasts.



The restaurant is located at 621 Bossier St, Natchitoches LA, 71457. *Photo by Cassandra Phillips.*

Magnolia's Diner: What Vic's wishes it could be

Anna Berbiglia
Reporter

Any good foodie knows that sometimes the best restaurants are the tiny hole-in-the-walls that only the locals know about. Magnolia's Dinner, located on Bossier Street, is owned by Cora Franklin, who is also the head chef of the establishment. When you walk in to take your order, she will be the one greeting you with a kind smile and, if you're lucky, even a compliment.

The food is set up on a warmer that displays a few options that are rotated daily. This particular day was what we all know to be Fish Friday, so of course this was my entrée of choice. I went with loaded mashed potatoes and stewed green beans for my sides. Franklin heavily doled out my food and threw a slice of bread on top—very old school, traditional cooking style. I was offered ketchup for my fish before I sat down, which I accepted and began my meal.

Before eating, I had to noticed the room was hot. Like, exceptionally hot. After a moment of looking around the small one room eatery, I realized that there was no air conditioning, and it was only being cooled down by four fans scattered around.

I dove into the meal, immediately deeming it "what Vic's wishes it could be." The loaded potatoes were filled with cheesy and bacon-y goodness that made my little Southern heart melt, and the green beans were heavily seasoned in the best way. The catfish was a thin fry style and very crispy.

I was surprised and delighted at how delicious everything was. At one look, the place is surround by broken-up parking lots and stores that don't even seem to be open. But their food is killer.

Overall, this is not the place you go to expecting service and atmosphere, though Franklin is kind and does a great job.
The biggest miss for me is the lack of air conditioning. I love a good Mom-and-Pop restaurant, but I also like staying cool. The food was tasty but I was sweating the entire time. Simply put, Magnolia's Diner is a straightforward place with delicious Southern food, but needs a little something to take the edge off of the heat. Maybe take a visit around winter?

Rating: 2.5/5 pitchforks





The children were given books, pencils, erasers and backpacks. *Submitted photos.*

Local group sends school supplies to Africa

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter



When I told the members of my club, the Cultural Exploration Organization, that we were going to raise enough money to help 300 underprivileged children in Nigeria in under two months, most of them laughed. They thought it would be impossible.

A lot of them thought that the club wasn't strong enough and didn't have enough support to pull it off. At the time, we had no sponsors and only $50 in our bank account.

The following week, I wrote a project statement that explained why and how we were going to help the children. I started the project statement with a question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Elizabeth Prejean, one of my favorite professors I've had at NSU, would ask her students that question almost every class.

In the statement, I explained that there are people out there who don't have the privilege of being asked this or get the advantage of attending a school.



In Africa, many families cannot afford to pay for school supplies or uniforms, among other things. Because of this, many are left at home, stripped away from their dreams of becoming well-educated and functional members of society. They may not grow up and live a purposeful life.

Unless something is done, more generations of children will be unable to attend school.

As the president of CEO, I relate to this on a personal level. The value of education is something that I have understood from a very young age.

My mother did not have an opportunity to obtain a good education, and has faced many struggles in her life. Her parents could not afford the educational expenses, mainly her school supplies.

With the help of many people, including Jennifer Maggio, my uncle Bukar Ibn-Mohammed, local businesses and members of CEO, we were able to help over 1,000 children.

The children were given books, pencils, erasers and backpacks. The backpacks were decorated with logos for both NSU and the City of Natchitoches, as well as the encouraging phrase "CEO believes in you!"

During our fundraising, I really got to see a different side of America. I got to see how compassionate and caring people are here. Without the boundless efforts of the people involved, this plan never would have come to fruition.

We are currently working on our well project, a CEO initiative that is estimated to provide water to up to 25,000 people.

To join CEO or be a part of this effort, contact me by phone at 318-332-5888.

The mayor who came for Nike and failed

Trinity Velazquez
Contributing Writer



Ben Zahn, the Republican mayor of Kenner, screwed up bigtime. I am just going to say it: this was a terrible idea.

Banning Nike products from Kenner's recreational centers while claiming to protect city taxpayers from promoting Nike's "political agenda" is hardly believable. He succumbed to his own personal beliefs, and never thought about the consequences.

I feel bad for him, because whoever works under him let the Nike ban go public, and then watched as it blew up in his face. Honestly, I probably would have done the same thing just so I could see everybody's reaction.

He pissed off a lot of people, made the council members angry, and received many negative comments from random people online. He probably didn't need any comments from the peanut gallery, but that's what he got.

The fact that he put his own beliefs over those of whom he governs does not surprise me, because he is not the first politician to do it and he won't be the last.

What surprises me is that no one agreed with him, and he was forced to reverse it. If the people of Kenner had not fought for the ban's reversal, this story would not have been as big as it was.

If anything, this should give hope to anyone feeling like they are powerless or who feel like they cannot trust their political leaders. We can fight back and take the power that we feel we don't have.

Kenner is close to my home, and because I am so far away, I just affiliated myself with everyone who lives there. I knew that there was no way the ban could last. And I was right because the ban was over as soon as it started—it only lasted a week.

So now, instead of being known for the arduous work he is doing to make Kenner a better place, Mayor Zahn could very well go down in history as the mayor who came for Nike and failed.

Why I Chose Computer Information Systems

Christall Bates
Contributing Writer



Ever since a young age I have been very interested in technology. By 2008 I had my own personal laptop, the Dell Inspiron 1501, and enjoyed fiddling with the different types of applications in Microsoft Office.

Down the line in middle school, I began to create websites and complete hours of code lessons. Once I made it to high school and began to think about my major interests, I chose computer science.

Initially, I was sure of my choice and began to attend Computer Science summer programs at Xavier University of Louisiana. There, I learned how to program robots, edit film, and create songs. During senior year, I chose to take an accounting course, and fell in love with it during the first month.

Toward the middle of the course, my professor said that most of the computers complete the functions, and accountants simply input the data and understand the how and why.

After learning that information I felt conflicted. I enjoyed doing it, but could not see having a long-term career in that field. I soon discovered that NSU offers a Computer Information Systems degree, which is a nice balance between my main interest in technology and my newfound interest in business.

Eager to attend a program to see if I was still interested in technology, I applied for the Computer Science Summer Institute offered by Google. Over the course of three weeks of intensive classes, I learned how to code games in Python, a coding language. I coded mazes, coloring books, and brick breaker all from scratch.

After finishing the course, I was offered a scholarship to Fisk University, but I turned it down as they only offered Computer Science.

After reviewing different universities, I applied to Northwestern because of the Computer Information Systems major. Ever since the beginning of the semester, I have understood and loved the courses that belong to my major. NSU CIS was definitely the right fit for me, and it might be for you, too.

NS YOU

If you could be any professor at NSU, who would you be?



Virginia Falgout
Senior
Accounting Major

"I would be Professor Turner because everybody loves him. He tells really funny stories and you can tell he loves what he does."



Jess Easley
Freshman
Education Major

"Antoon. He's lots of fun and he looks like he enjoys his job."



Hailey Urena
Sophomore
Elementary Education Major

"I would be Mrs. Eaton because she made the biggest impression on me. She gave us the opportunity to form our own opinions instead of expecting us to conform to hers."



Jordan Thomas
Freshman
Theater Major

"Pia Wyatt. She's such a fun person and every time she speaks I laugh."

Following tough losses, Lady Demons look to a weekend at home

Matthew Craig
Reporter



Jalen Donaldson races down the field at the Sept. 2 game against ULM. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

The Lady Demons were unable to pick up a win over the weekend as conference play continued, losing to McNeese 0-4 and Lamar 0-1. Both games were on the road, but the Lady Demons return home this weekend to face UIW on Friday (9/28) and Abilene Christian on Sunday (9/30). Senior Forward Brittany Caserma believes their offense has been playing well, and if they keep it up, the team has a chance to win both games.

"Offensively we are doing amazing and we are able to make a lot of goals. Everybody is doing great," Caserma said. "We have a lot of talent up top this year, so as long as we come together and work off one another, we should be able to do well this weekend."

Caserma knows it's going take more than offense to win games and get them over the hump. She wants the team to work harder than the other teams, and put more effort into practice and on the field during game days.

"It's going take getting to those 50/50 balls, and wanting to work harder than the other team," said Casmera. "I think the effort was definitely there this weekend. I think in these tight conference games, it's going to come down to who wants to win more."

The Lady Demons have been doing a good job on defense, holding teams to a few shots a game. Freshmen defender Kalee Williams believes that the team has been improving each game on defense, and having veteran players that have her back makes a difference.

"I definitely think it has gotten better since the first few games, especially with being a freshman in a center back position," said Williams. We have been working on specific things in practice, so I definitely think that as a backline we have gotten stronger, and we are getting better each game. I believe we are going to win this weekend."

"Co-Head Coach Jess Jobe has a lot of trust in his defense, and believes they have been proving themselves week after week.

Jobe knows he can trust the defense to have each other's backs, and that they will continue to grow together.

"We stuck with a core group on Friday night and didn't make chance back there. We've leaned heavily on that group before, and they've been proving themselves week after week," said Jobe. "They done a great job with being connected, covering and sliding with one another so if one gets beat or gives something up, there's another body right there to take it on. That's the biggest thing, they are learning to play as a group. That is what is going lead to more wins."



Madeline Drake, #7, and Alexis Warren, #9, at a Sept. 20 game against the Cardinals. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

NSU starts busy week at streaking Stephen F. Austin

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director

After a relaxing weekend, the Northwestern State volleyball team starts a five-day, three-match Southland Conference road swing just the way it wants – against Stephen F. Austin.

"You want them first," fourth-year head coach Sean Kiracofe said. "That helps. It hurts us down the road to be able to prepare at the level we want for everyone else."

The Lady Demons (5-6, 1-0 Southland) open their first conference road trip at 6:30 p.m. against the Ladyjacks (14-2, 1-0), winners of 11 in a row, including a sweep of reigning Southland Conference Tournament champion Central Arkansas on Thursday.

Tuesday's match can be seen on ESPN+, a subscription-based service offered by ESPN.

Following Tuesday's trip across Toledo Bend, Northwestern State will travel to New Orleans on Thursday and Nicholls on Saturday before returning home for a four-match homestand that begins Oct. 4.

Stephen F. Austin enters Tuesday's match as perhaps the most well-rounded team in the conference. The Ladyjacks lead the SLC in hitting percentage (.254) and rank second in opponent hitting percentage (.172) and hold top-three marks in assists per set, digs per set and aces per set while leading the league in blocks per set (2.42).

Northwestern State ranks second in the league in blocks per set (2.25) thanks in large part to the emergence of Brooke Wood, who ranks 16th in the nation and leads the conference in blocks per set (1.45).

In Northwestern State's 3-1 win against Incarnate Word on Thursday, Wood tied a school single-match record with 10 block assists, becoming the first Lady Demon to record double-figure block assists in Prather Coliseum.

"We've talked about our defense and the progression of that and how tough we can be defensively along the back line," Kiracofe said. "To add the blocking numbers – and Brooke has played a huge role in that – is great.

To give your defense in the back row a little bit of a break, you have to put some down at the net, and she's done a good job of that for us."

Facing a diverse UIW attack, Northwestern State set a season high with 13 blocks Thursday night. Stephen F. Austin poses a different type of threat.

Four Ladyjacks average at least two kills per set while setter Ann Hollas has produced one of the three triple-doubles by a Southland player this season.

"They're on a roll," Kiracofe said. "They have a lot of talent they can spread out. You have the old cliché of take something away from a team and see if everyone else can beat you. They can do that.

"It's going to be hard to find out what we necessarily want to attack and what we want to take away because they are just so talented across the board."

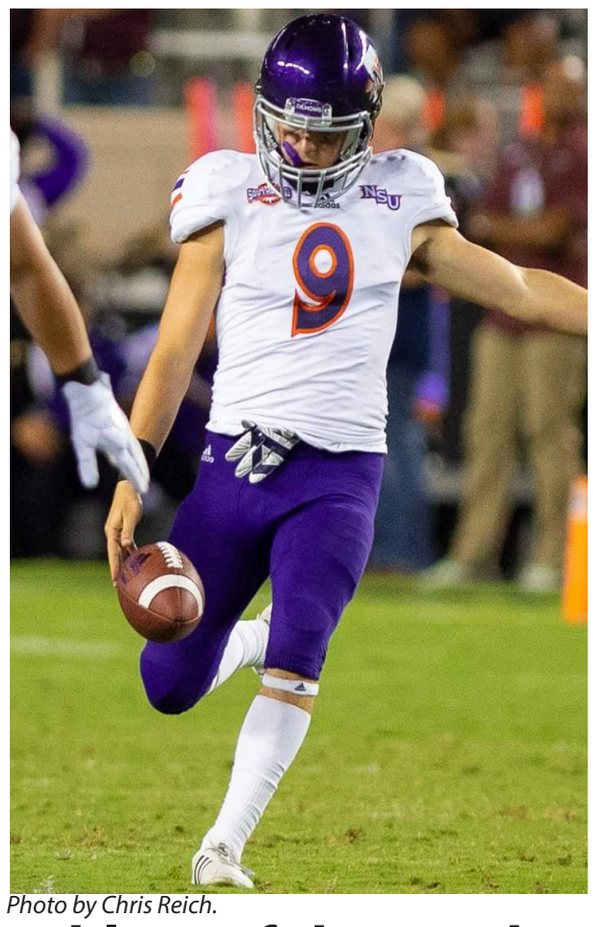


Photo by Chris Reich.

Athlete of the Week: Parker Pastorello

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

For those watching in the stands, those 4th and long punts are watched with bated breaths and anticipation. To Parker Pastorello, our athlete of the week, it's second nature.

Pastorello is a native of Mandeville, Louisiana, on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. As a punter and defensive back for Mandeville High School, he helped lead his team to the 5A State Semi-Championships for three years, and achieved a First Team All-District spot to cap off his high school career.

One of Pastorello's teammates at Mandeville High was Parker Orgeron, the son of now-famous LSU head coach, Ed Orgeron. Coach Orgeron took notice of Pastorello's talent all through his senior year, and gave his personal reference to the coaches at his own alma mater, our Northwestern State University.

In his time here at NSU, Pastorello has not only excelled in school and on the field, but also in campus leadership organizations. He is a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and has dedicated many service hours to helping coach young children, cleaning up the community and assisting in disaster relief in the Southern US.

Now in his senior year, Pastorello has high hopes for the Demon football team as they adjust to their new coaching staff. He sees this team as having the potential to clinch a conference championship, and he's doing his best to contribute to this atmosphere of success. He has consistently averaged over 40 yards per game, with eight punts going over 50 yards last season and a career-long staggering 71-yard punt against Nicholls University last fall.

One of Pastorello's most memorable accomplishments, however, is the game against UCA last fall. On a fake punt play, Pastorello threw a 58-yard touchdown pass, which demonstrates his range and flexibility as an athlete. In recognition of his leadership, Coach Laird appointed him to sit on the teams Leadership Committee.

Pastorello plans on graduating this spring with a degree in Health and Exercise Science, with a concentration in Kinesiology. He then wishes to pursue a graduate program in Sports Administration, with the goal of becoming an Athletic Director at a university, and eventually owning his own sports complex.



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NSU hits record-high enrollment numbers

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

In keeping with the tradition of the last few semesters, Northwestern State University has continued to increase their enrollment numbers across the board. As of this fall, NSU provides an academic experience for 11,081 students across the United States, up 509 students from the 10,572 students that chose to call Demonland their home last fall.

These large numbers are not to be confused with the number of students who call the Natchitoches campus their home. NSU's main campus is home to 4,392 students, each of whom either take their classes face-to-face, online, or a combination of the two to complete their degree.

The three categories NSU enrollment saw the most growth in were with preparatory students taking dual-enrollment courses, continuing graduate students, and most importantly, first-time freshmen.

"Seeing our numbers shoot up, especially with first-time freshman, is a reward to the hard work of the whole NSU community," said Dr. Chris Maggio, university president. "As an administration, we lay out a strategic vision and plan a framework to improve all aspects of the University."

In addition to including a variety of new academic programs into the university curriculum, NSU has taken major steps to improve the student experience. These steps include renovations to the Freidman Student Union, additions to Iberville Green, construction of the new University bookstore, and inclusion of popular chain restaurants like Chick-Fil-A.

"Two of our most important goals that we as an administration have to facilitate are recruitment and retainment," said Francis Conine, dean of students. "We have an amazing team here at NSU that focuses on both. The recruitment team spends countless hours during the throughout the year preparing for summer recruitment and facilitating visits from potential students.

"Along with them, the whole of the student body also plays a huge part in retaining students," added Conine. "The biggest group we look to retain are sophomores and juniors. We've seen that one of the most useful tools are simply fellow students contacting their friends to talk about NSU and inviting them back the following year."

NSU doesn't hide the fact that it is on a quest to become one of the premier regional universities, and so far, the facts speak for themselves. Being one of the first universities to offer online classes allowed NSU to become leaders in online education, its history as the Louisiana Normal School makes it the premier college for education in this state and many of its programs have achieved national recognition.

With the goal of having 15,000 students in the next five years, and the constant expansion and improvement of the University, Northwestern State University remains dedicated to one goal-yours.



Above, Russell Hall is one of NSU's many historic sites included in the tour. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Relive history with the 64th annual tour of homes

Leanna Coy
Reporter

From October 12 to 14, Natchitoches will be hosting its 64th annual Fall Tour of Homes. The tour is held by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, featuring sites in and around Natchitoches.

Friday's Candlelight Tour will touch on Northwestern State University's historic sites. The Alumni House, Varnado Hall, Nelson Hall and Russell Hall will each be shown.

Visitors to Russell will be treated to meat pies and dirty rice, made by NSU's culinary arts students. At Varnado, the play "Cane River Ladies," directed by Dr. Vicki Parrish, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

"It's a great opportunity for people to see history come to life through the play," said Eileen Kendrick, one of the heads of the Tour of Homes.

The Country Tour is available on Saturday and Sunday. The Town Tour is available on Saturday only.

"The tours bring a lot of visitors because they get to see the inside of homes not usually open to the public," said Heather Lockwood, a worker for the Natchitoches Visitor's Bureau.

Participants have the opportunity to visit with former plantation residents and experience local traditions. There will also be various speakers featured during the tours.

Some of the plantations on tour include Melrose, Magnolia and Oakland.

Oakland Plantation will have a free showing of "The Horse Soldiers," a John Wayne classic filmed along the Cane River, during the weekend tour at 7:00 p.m. Admission to both Oakland and Magnolia will be free to the public.

Professor Emeritus of Communications at NSU Thomas Whitehead has been involved with coordinating the Tour of Homes.

"The Clementine House will be open for the first time in over forty years," Whitehead said. "The house will provide an interpretation of her paintings."

The Friday, Saturday and Sunday tours will each be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information about purchasing a ticket, call 318-352-8055 or 800-259-1714.

Another season, another tailgate

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

The student section for tailgating this season has been moved to Donald's Demon Alley. While normally separated from the commercial section, this year both tailgate areas are located at the Demon Alley.

Tori Thompson, director of marketing and digital media, said the student area is at the front of the practice field. Although the commercial area has generally been by the practice field, the student section has often moved.

"Students' tailgate has moved a lot," Thompson said. "We are trying to find the spot that works best for them."

Thompson said the combined event will help students get more involved with the community.

Alcohol, to some's surprise, is allowed during the tailgate.

"We expect that people who are consuming alcohol to be of age," said Shayne Creppel, director of Greek Life and assistant director of student life.

"Tailgating is one of those things that just add to your college experience," said senior Charles McClintock. He added that students should go and have fun at the new location.

Admission to tailgates is free for all students.



Northwestern State continues the American Tradition of tailgating before the game. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

JJ's Dancehall Lounge set ablaze

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

JJ's Dancehall Lounge, a popular bar in nearby Natchez, caught on fire last Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Volunteer firefighters from Natchitoches Parish Fire District 5 responded to a 911 call made by a driver at 8:36 p.m. It was called in that the lounge had caught on fire that evening. An NSU student who requested anonymity spoke of the bar as having been a good place for "just hanging out, having fun and just listening to country music."

While not well-known among many at NSU, it's a place with a small but dedicated base of customers.

"In a sense, [JJ's] is kind of its own thing," the source said. "The people that would go there wouldn't go anywhere else in Natchitoches."

According to Patrick Sprung, a senior at NSU and a volunteer firefighter for the Natchitoches Parish Fire Department for District 5, the cause of the fire hadn't been determined as of Friday morning when the interview took place. The extent of the fire and smoke damage is also yet to be verified. Both will be documented in the official fire report.

The bulk of the damage from the fire occurred to the front side of the building, and was diminished by the "quick, effective response and 'knock-down' of the fire made by the first-in units," according to Sprung. Sprung also said there were no injuries reported the night of the fire.

JJ's Dancehall Lounge updated their Facebook page at 10:48 p.m. the night of the fire with a reassuring message: "We are still standing y'all."

NSU sets sights on several new projects

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

Dr. Chris Maggio said one of his biggest goals is the creation of a new academic building on Northwestern State's Natchitoches campus. Construction of the building, nicknamed the new Kyser Hall, is still in its early stages.

Maggio said the project is currently in the State Capital Outley Process. He added that the university is "working diligently" to get funding for the building project.

Nicholas Parhan, sophomore, said he Funding for new dorms for the Louisiana School of Math, Science and the Arts is thinks the creation of a new academic building could be very helpful. He said the move could allow Kyser Hall to be more focused on one subject.

Funding for new dorms for the Louisiana School of Math, Science and the Arts is coming, the president said. A residence hall will be built behind the library, with construction scheduled to start in the spring.

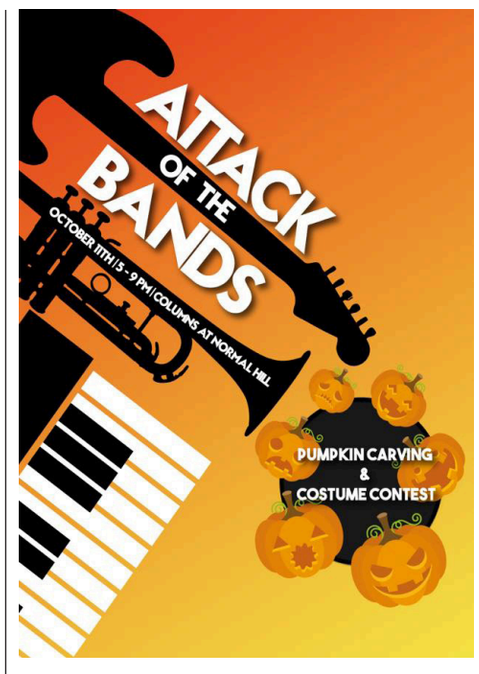
Completion of the dorms is expected for fall 2020. The university is seeking funding to demolish Prud'homme and Caddo Hall, LSMSA's current dorms.

The Nesom Natarorium and Dodd Hall are two other projects for the university. While Dodd Hall is marked for demolition, the natatorium is not. Plans for the natatorium could include repurposing it or reopening it as an indoor pool.

Maggio said that NSU recently took over control of the learning center at England Air Park in Rapides Parish. On NSU's Shreveport campus, a new bookstore is scheduled to be added. NSU Middle Lab will also have an elevator added.

The president said he is unsure if NSU will receive any of the $300 million surplus raised by the state government this year.

Ted Scott, freshman, said the idea of a new building is "pretty good." He added that the space where the LSMSA dorms are should be turned into NSU dorms.



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‘Spring Awakening’: a review

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

When I arrived at A. A. Frederick’s to watch the student production of “Spring Awakening,” I was struck by one of the more impressive sets I have seen at this university to date. The floor was ornately painted with a splatter that began in its center. It was very reminiscent to what I imagine a blown-up spin art painting would look like.

The risers on the stage allowed for everyone to be able to look down and watch the show in the round. This was a very interesting point of view to be in as an audience member, rather than having to look upward. It was almost like watch a show up close whilst being in the mezzanine. This change of perspective was not only welcome, but successfully aided in the narration of this story.



Dania Hunter acts her heart out at dress rehearsal. *Photo by Cassandra Phillips.*

As you wait for the show to start, the pre-show music plays lightly in the background while the live band warms up. The music, or rather sounds, playing were those of children playing in a playground. You could faintly hear children’s screams and laughter until the actors began filling the stage for a pre-show ritual before the show officially started.

As a whole, the cast was filled with extremely strong actors. Right away I understood that I was watching a show with children telling this story, even though these actors range from 18 to 21.

While the show as a whole sounded beautiful and poignant, the female ensemble truly blew me away. In “Mama Who Bore Me (Reprise),” the harmonies were so tight and resonated beautifully throughout the theatre. The pure angst emitted from these ladies was breathtaking.

The show stopper in this show for me was clearly “The Darkness I Know Well.” The technical aspects of this song truly portrayed the real darkness the song describes. The use of puppetry was very powerful and perfectly matched the dramatics of the song as well.

Cassidy Giddens, who portrayed Martha, left her soul bare on the set as she belted through her character’s felling whilst lying on a bed onstage.

You are guaranteed to leave this show feeling differently, which is something that always lets me know it has done its job. The way it resonates in everyone speaks worlds of both the direction and the writing.

The message of the show is mostly a call to action for sexual education and freedom within our youth and the audience will leave wanting to know how they can be a part of it.

“Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead” is debuting at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 31. If it is half as good as “Spring Awakening,” NSU Theatre is in for a great semester.

Ask Vic

Q *Hey Vic,*
There’s this girl in one of my classes (won’t say which one, because let’s be real - Natty is too small for that kind of information) and I’d really like to ask her out. But I don’t want to seem creepy or stalkerish since I’ve only talked to her a few times. I feel like everything is so hookup centered now, that asking a girl on a date seems too official. I don’t know, please help.

A Hey weird stalker,
Kidding. Let’s get one thing straight—a date isn’t a commitment. It’s not some official moonlit romantic hullabaloo to get all anxious over. A date is just an event. That’s it. You’re not asking this girl to marry you. Just ask her to grab a bite to eat. Or invite her to a CAPA event. (Spring Awakening was fire, by the way. 10/10.)

And if it doesn’t work out, so what? It was just a date. I’m not talking “Hey come watch Netflix on my couch,” or “Um, you just wanna hang?” A girl ain’t gonna want that.

You don’t have to slide in her DMs or go like all her pictures or anything like that. That’s pansy high school flirting. Be a man. Be confident. Just ask her out. Worst she can do is say no.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!
@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



The courtyard outside A.A. Frederick’s on an early October morning.
Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.

Alumni Plaza is alive with the sound of music

Blake Blanchard
Contributing Writer

Alumni Plaza sits between A.A. Frederick’s Auditorium and the Annex. Both of those buildings make up Northwestern State’s Creative and Performing Arts department, which boasts some of the most talented students and faculty in the state.

For the students who call themselves a part of CAPA, going to school means perfecting their skills in whatever aspect of creativity is suited for them. There are dancers, thespians, artists, musicians and more.

This part of campus is home to an exuberant environment of artistic collaboration and monuments to the people who helped make it into what it is today. The department is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and Alumni Plaza at the center continues to be most common place where music majors practice their instruments. On any given day at almost any time, someone is playing a musical instrument on or near Alumni Plaza.

Taking in everything around that goes on outside of CAPA can be very interesting. On a recent Thursday afternoon, a percussionist practiced his drumming on the stage connected to the auditorium.

He shouted out to two other students, who also had instruments in hand. A boy rode past on his bike and stopped to converse with a group who were congregated around a trumpet player.

“It’s nice to play in the courtyard, and the students love to walk through and listen,” said 19-year-old Bruce Beth, a music student who’s also in band. Beth also compares the experience of playing right outside of CAPA to the adrenaline rush one gets when performing music in front of a large crowd.

A truck drove through along the path that is parallel to CAPA Annex, hauling several long pieces of wood that extend well past the tailgate, most likely to be used to build props for an upcoming musical theater performance.

“One of my favorite places to practice is the breezeway,” said trombone player Michael Dailey, 22. He was referring to the second story hallway that connects the two buildings of CAPA under a single roof.

Accompanying the harmonies that fill the air are interesting sights, including what’s known as “Lilly’s Fountain.” Known around campus as the CAPA fountain, Lilly’s Fountain was installed in 2006 at the center of Alumni Plaza as a “permanent tribute to those whose paths led to and through Northwestern,” in the words of a plaque placed near one of the many benches encircling the fountain.

The constant sound of running water now combats the soothing melodies of brass instrumentals.

Next to the fountain stands a tall, analog clock that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Beta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Phi at NSU.

“I saw the dedication plaque for the clock when I was a student, and that’s when I first became aware of the chapter,” said Shayne Creppel in an email interview. Creppel is an alumnus of both the fraternity and the university.

With all the sights, music and the sound of wind blowing, Alumni Plaza’s scene is always guaranteed to have a remarkable energy.

‘Lost Paradise’: A hybrid made in Eden

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

“Fist of the North Star: Lost Paradise,” designed by Ryu Ga Gotoku Studios, is like a hybrid of Mad Max, Bruce Lee, and 80s action movies. The Magna-inspired video game is the sixth entry of the Yakuza game series.

While many other developers have based games off the series, “Lost Paradise” is perfect for the studio.

The story of Lost Paradise is based on the first part of the manga of the same name, and follows a man named Kenshiro in a post-apocalyptic world. Yuria, his lover, is kidnapped by one of his rivals, and most of the game is finding out where she is.

You don’t need to know anything about the series to enjoy the game. Unfortunately, the first 3 chapters starts off slow due to the story taking center stage. While the story is engaging, not much goes on gameplay wise as you are forced along linear battles with an abundance of cutscenes.

Around chapter 5, you have freedom to explore the world and perform side missions. The exploring is divided into two sections, the City of Eden and the Wasteland.

When traveling in the city you have to go on foot. In the Wasteland, travel can be done using a Jeep. Both areas provide a lot of minigames, including: bartending, being a musical doctor, running a hostess club and playing “biker baseball.”

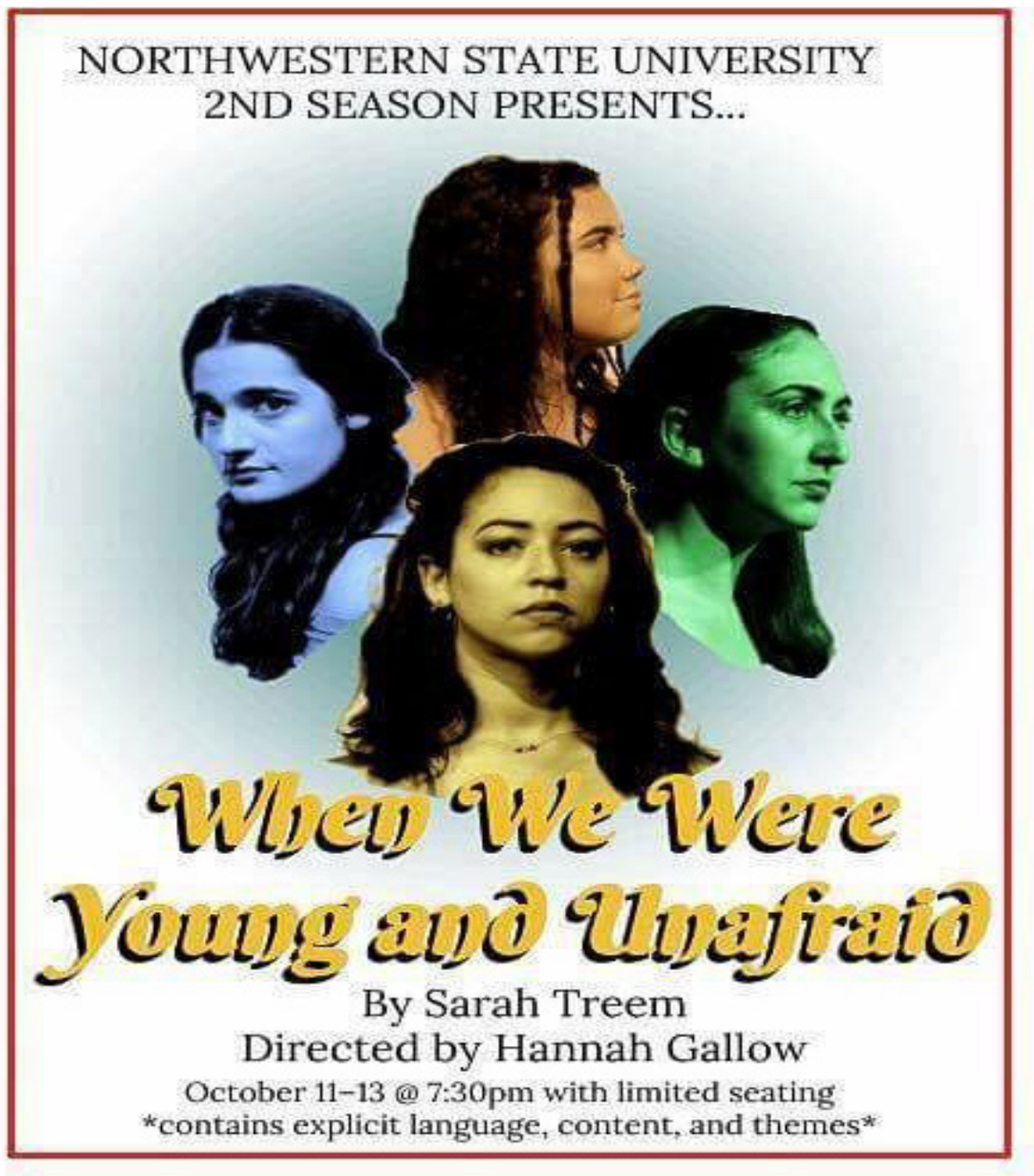
The games combat is a perfect hybrid of the Yakuza’s series and the Manga. When battling enemies, you can use the special power of “Hokuto Shinken” to take them out.

The gameplay is similar to other Yakuza games, but not entirely. The “Fist of the North Star” series is well known for its gore and “Lost Paradise” doesn’t hold back on it. You can tone down the amount of violence to “Mild” setting if it gets too much to handle.

The game uses the same engine as “Yakuza 0” and looks serviceable for a Play Station 4 game. While character design looks perfect to the manga, not much is being used to take advantage of the hardware that isn’t just numerous enemy encounters. The game runs at 60 frames-per-second with no problems, so it still works out.

Despite the issues, “Lost Paradise” is still a ridiculously fun game and was right up the developer’s alley. It perfectly captures the serious dark tone of the series, while injecting the fun aspects that Yakuza is known for.

The combat is cathartic, the side-content is numerous, and it’s one of the sleeper hits of this year. I highly recommend it to longtime fans of the series and newcomers alike.





The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is a hub for the Catholic community of NSU. *Photo by Cassandra Phillips*

It is long past time the Catholic Church changes LGBTQ doctrine



Serena Bonnette
Contributing Writer

Let me start out by saying that I am a Catholic woman, who is very strong in her faith. Yet I am also liberal in my beliefs concerning many social discussions. I know, we are very few and far between and sometimes I honestly feel like I am the only one out there, especially here, in North Louisiana.

One of the long-held debates between liberal and conservatives is gay rights. And as you probably know, the Catholic Church is against gay rights because it is believed to be a sin to act upon homosexual attraction. I, although very Catholic, strongly disagree.

Mainly because of the scientific evidence that being gay is not a choice and that people should be able to express the way they feel while also having a relationship with the God who created them and made them in His image.

Ultimately, I 100% support gay rights. Love simply is love. In the 10 Commandments, God said to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

The condemning of LGBTQ people and their well-deserved rights goes against the Bible and the original 10 Commandments that the Christian church bases its beliefs on. And since the church wants to make anything and everything a sin, then going against what God Himself said technically qualifies as a sin.

So here the main question stands—should the church support gay rights? Short answer: yes. The church needs to realize that acting on a genetic trait is not a sin, and neither should gay rights, or really anyone's rights, be a sin.

The progression of ideology due to educational advancements in the world today shows that the church needs to catch up with the times. The contradiction makes people run away from the Christian faith.

But, if we as Christians believe in a God who loves everyone, then the Christian church should be able to accept anyone and everyone from all backgrounds of life and love them as they love themselves.

Should there be legal consequences for false rape accusations?



Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Rape never has been or will be a light topic to touch on. It's scary, ugly and infuriating to discuss. We all know the statistics of how sexual assault happens or where it takes place—I don't have to go into that.

I'm not going to drag on about how when someone is charged of rape their sentence is not nearly where it should be or sometimes the accuser gets out early because of good behavior. What we do need talk about is false rape accusations and ask ourselves what should happen to the accuser.

Rape is a severe crime, and I believe that the accuser should serve jail time. Filing an assault and accusing an innocent person of something they didn't commit should be considered a felony.

Let's think about the Emmett Till case, a young black boy who was beaten to death when a white woman lied on the stand about how he had flirted with her and made her uncomfortable. Years later, when she admitted to lying, she received no punished, but Emmett Till had paid the price for her lie.

We have a long way to go to get to a fair justice system. We can at least start with convicting a false accuser the same sentence as the crime they say happened.

For example, a year ago a woman made up a story about a false rape claim that led two college football players in Connecticut to withdraw from the team and their college. Why did she lie? She didn't want to lose a potential boyfriend.

She decided to lie and almost ruin the lives of two innocent people all because she never wanted to admit that she was in the wrong. She was charged to one year in prison, but she should have received more.

It should be remembered that a false accuser is a person making up a story to serve some goal. Whether or not the accuser is a woman or a man, if they get caught lying on the stand, they need to be punished. By lying about something as serious as assault, they take away the rights and liberties of the accused.

And for what? What reward could someone achieve by lying and wasting everyone's time? Probably for attention or so that the accuser wouldn't get into trouble with someone else, but those reasons are invalid, inexcusable and irrelevant.

So, should there be legal consequences for false rape accusations? The answer is yes. This isn't just about a fair justice system—this is about equality.

Gabriel, forever pup and my best friend

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

In 2007, when I was 10 years old, my grandmother decided to get herself a Labrador. She named him Gabriel, after the archangel. He was the best dog in the world.

My grandparents had been living with my mom and I in Anacoco, Louisiana, since I was five. It looked like they were finally financially stable enough to get their own place, and Nana wanted a dog of her own to help her feel safe and keep her company while Pawpaw was working out of state.

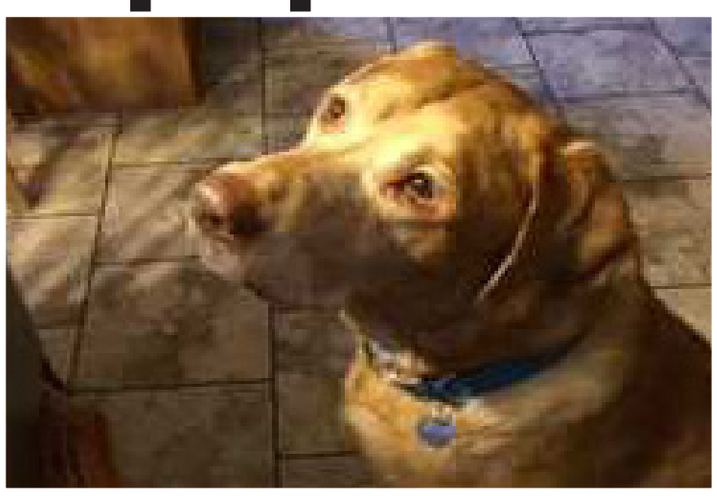
Then Pawpaw filed for divorce.

He moved out soon after and Nana stayed with us. It was a rough time for our family, but in the midst of this darkness, Gabe brought us incredible joy.

I'll never forget the night Gabe first met our other dog, Buddy. Buddy, a mutt, was about two years older, and Gabe was still a pup. Buddy is very territorial, and we were concerned they wouldn't get along. As soon as Gabe saw Buddy, he leapt for him, ready to play. Buddy didn't mind. They quickly became best friends.

Both young and full of energy, Gabe and I made quite the pair, too. We raised him as an inside dog, and all that energy had to go somewhere. Gabe would chase me anywhere I went, and sometimes I would take off running as fast as I could from one end of our single-wide trailer to the other. Then I'd jump on the couch and chant his name, "Gabe! Gabe! Gabe!" He'd take off and morph into a golden blur, all for my amusement.

Another thing Gabe and I had in common was our shared adoration for all things food—which made us adversaries when he'd try to be sneaky and eye the food on my plate. One morning, I was getting ready



for school, and I left a toaster strudel on my plate on the island in the kitchen when I walked out of the room. When I came back, it was gone. I knew who the culprit was.

But it wasn't all about the food with Gabe. He would follow any of us anywhere whether we had a treat to give him or not. He was just happy to be where we were.

It may be odd to look to a canine as a role model, but I've never met anyone, human or animal, who loved the way he loved. He loved freely. He was protective, but once he realized you weren't a threat to the family, he loved you, too.

He was the happiest dog there ever was. He was content with little, another quality we humans ought to pursue. Two seconds of petting him on the head and he'd be grinning from ear. (You wouldn't want to pet him too long, though, before he turned over wanting you to rub his belly and then you'd be there awhile.)

Gabe grew to be a big ol' boy, but if he knew it, he didn't show it. He never grew tired of climbing up in Nana's lap on her recliner and cuddling with her. Personality-wise, he never seemed to age past the day we got him. He was forever a pup.

On Monday, Sept. 24, Gabe passed away. He was 11 years old. Three strokes from the previous weekend rendered him unable to walk; we had to carry him down the steps out back just so he could use the bathroom. Due to this and other health problems, we had to take him to the vet to be put down.

The worst part about it is despite his sickness and disability, he was still as happy as ever. As Nana, Mom and I bawled our eyes out in that office waiting on the veterinarian to show up, petting him and knowing this would be our last moment with him, he was still wagging his tail and grinning from ear to ear. He was just happy to be where we were.

It's going to be jarring going back to Anacoco and him not waiting at the door for me, welcoming me back home. I'm going to go to the fridge for a class of water, and he won't rush up to my side expecting to be fed ice—a favorite of his.

No, unfortunately, the lifespans of dogs and humans don't match up too well.

But in the 11 years I had him by my side, this Labrador taught me a lot about the kind of human I want to be. I will make it a point to live as he lived: always cheerful, always loving and always hungry.

DEMON DEBATES

Seth Baggett Contributing Writer

ANTI-GUN CONTROL

Having been raised in a small rural town I grew up around guns of all sorts and went on numerous hunting trips and shooting excursions. I was also taught gun safety at a young age and completed hunter safety at the age of 11. With that said, gun control has always been a sour topic in the mouth of my family and friends. To us, owning firearms is a way of life.

I was taught at a young age that guns are tools which are used to kill. Their ultimate role is to bring about the swift end to whatever is at the end of the barrel, though they can be fun when using them for sport and competition.

However, the problem is not with the tool, but those who wield it. We are so quick to make excuses when someone abuses the power of guns to harm others or bring the end to someone's life, but we never really seek the true cause of the act.

We have raised up a generation of people who have low self-esteem and no true purpose or value. We as a society have cheapened the value of human life. So, what do you expect from people who have little respect for others and their lives or lifestyles? People in that situation treat others as though they have no worth and that they are merely disposable human bodies, a casualty of a society without morals.

More gun control will not solve this issue; it's just a band aid to the larger problem. People will always find a way to hurt and kill one another. We as a society have a heart problem that should be addressed before gun control.

Anson Ballow Associate Editor

PRO-GUN CONTROL

I would like to first define the term "gun control," and what I mean by it. Gun control is often defined as the absence of guns, propagated largely by far-right interests to rile up the voting base against any legislation that has to do with the sale of firearms.

"Gun control" is not intended to mean the lack of firearms, but rather the regulation on the sale of firearms, based on an individual's background and the intended use of the firearm.

There are a multitude of uses for motor vehicles, from commerce to public transportation to personal enjoyment. They have become a staple to the American economy. There are different classifications of licenses, with different background checks, training courses, and legal regulations. Adversely, firearms are created with the sole intention of ending life, and I can walk out of a Bass Pro Shop with one in hand anytime I want.

If you are one of the American citizens who wishes to own a weapon as a hard-working, law-abiding citizen to defend against all enemies, foreign and domestic, the Second Amendment guarantees you that right, and stricter gun control laws would have no impact on your ability to own a firearm. It would only ensure that you are the type of citizen responsible and capable enough to own a firearm.

People will always find a way to hurt and kill one another if they wish to. However, with proper training, intensive background checks, and regulations, we can diminish cases of mass shootings and lower the rate of gun crime in our nation.

Lady Demons Volleyball look to win at Prather following losses

Matthew Craig
Reporter



Volleyball team rasing their forks up. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Northwestern State Lady Demons were not able to pick up a win last week as conference play continued, losing to Central Arkansas 1-3 and Stephen F. Austin 1-3. Both games were at Prather Coliseum and the Lady Demons will remind home this week to face McNeese on Thursday Oct. 11 and Lamar on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Redshirt Sophomore middle blocker Brooke Wood believes that winning starts with defense and if they work together on defense then they can come out with wins this week.

"I think a lot of times in games you lose because of your defense," Wood said. "Especially if we are down or if the match is difficult or [it] becomes hard to have defense, then it's really important that we work together as a team and execute blocks and execute digs.

"We really have been working on defense," Wood added.

Brooke Wood knows getting their blocks set will lead to more blocks during the game. The key to each game is to limit your opponent's shots and our Lady Demons work hard to make sure they set up to have multiple blocks during the game. That will be the key for our Lady Demons going into the games this week at home.

"I think something we focus on was getting our blocks set so middles can close. If we don't have a good set block then we can't really have a good block total so that I think that really pressing and working hard and getting there is what we worked on," Wood said.

The goal for every game is to limit the chances for your opponent's score but in order to win the game our Lady Demons have to score.

Senior Middle Blocker Madeline Drake knows reading the opponent's block set and working around it will be the best way to score.

"I was able to see the block and see where I was open and I was able to hit that or tip and get the point and it was great," Drake said.

Our Lady Demons look to break their current two game losing streak and get back on the winning side against McNeese. Drake that will start with their mindset.

"I think we just decided that we are not going lose at Prather," Drake said. "Our goal is to protect Prather and I think we just decided we are not going lose this game"

Head Coach Sean Kiracofe said his team made a couple of errors throughout the game this past week but he knows they can improve on their errors for the upcoming games.

"We were very consistent tonight and there are still areas that we could've did a better job at," Kiracofe said. "A couple of silly errors here and there but we minimize them compared to previous matches and put us in position to win, which I was happy about."

Our Lady Demons are going be home this week to play McNeese on Oct. 11 followed by Lamar on Oct. 13 as they look to get back on the winning side.

Their current record is 6-10 overall and 2-4 in conference play.

Demons come up short in 28-10 loss to Nicholls



"We're playing hard, but we've got to take advantage of our opportunities – that's the biggest thing right now," Demons Coach Brad Laird said. "We had [three turnovers], which was an area in which we've done well in the past. We've moved the ball, we just have to convert in the red zone." *Photo by Chris Reich.*



Baseball team squads up at practice. *Photo by Jason Pugh.*

Demons open fall practices, will face Louisiana Tech on Oct. 26

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director

One of the busiest fall seasons in Northwestern State baseball history started in earnest Monday afternoon.

The defending Southland Conference Tournament champions opened their full-squad workouts with a three-hour practice at Brown-Stroud Field on an unseasonably warm afternoon.

For the second straight year, the Demons opened practice later than most of their counterparts, preferring instead to focus on strength and conditioning early in the fall semester.

"They did a good job of having energy, of doing what we asked," third-year head coach Bobby Barbier said. "The core group of older players we have back has stepped up to teach these younger guys how we do things. That's been really exciting to see with all of us out here at the same time."

Northwestern State will take advantage of a new NCAA rule that allows baseball teams to play up to two fall exhibitions and not have them count against the spring schedule.

The Demons will travel to Louisiana Tech on Oct. 26 for their lone exhibition game of the fall.

"It's something exciting for the players to not have to go five weeks without playing somebody else," Barbier said. "That can get a little monotonous toward the end. It will be exciting for them, and it will be nice to see them play under the lights with some different competition. We won't be prepared to play opening day when we play Louisiana Tech."

Northwestern State's fall practice runs through Nov. 10 and will conclude with the annual NSU Fall World Series, a three-game intrasquad series from Nov. 8-10 at Brown-Stroud Field.

Barbier said he is looking forward to seeing what unfolds during the five weeks of fall work.

"The thing for this group is how will we be on Day 10?" he said. "Everybody's excited for the first day, for opening day, but how about Day 10 when we've been out here a while and it's hot? Do you make a decision to perform well on those days?"



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the CURRENTsauce

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A typical evening at NSU's Iberville Dining Hall. *Photo byJacob Bennett.*

Students allege food poisoning woes

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Students on the students concerns page have been voice concerns that they have caught food poising from Iberville Dining Hall. The concerns have not been accurately verified.

Hannah Durgin, a student at Northwestern State University, believes she got sick after eating at the cafeteria one night. "From then up to today, my stomach gets upset every time I eat in the café. However, when I eat food that I bought, my stomach is fine," Durgin said.

Savannah Thompson thought she had food poisoning as well. "I started feeling sick a few days ago. I had heard people talking about getting food poisoning, so I thought that's what it was, but mine was something else," Thompson said.

Steve Kauf, Sodexo's general manager, said he does not think anyone received food poisoning from the cafeteria.

"We have had the infirmary on campus say that the people who came in just had the flu," Kauf said. "There are so many people we serve that if it were foodborne, we would know."

School Board canidate visits SGA

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

Dr. Phil Brown, former Northwestern State adjunct professor, visited the Student Government Association to discuss why students should vote for him in the Nov. 6 election. Brown is running for the Natchitoches School Board's district 4.

Brown taught at NSU from 2004 to 2016, and previously served in the Air Force as a Colonel. He said that the parish is hurting financially and that it is "destitute."

SGA President Jacob Ellis nominated Robert Devold, senior, to fill a vacant senate seat. Following a short discussion, the nominee was appointed.

Due to new regulations, SGA and the Students Activity Board will be unable to nominate or support a candidate running for a school election. The move was made due to both organizations being representative of the entire student body.

The SGA also voted on appointments for the Leadership NSU committee. The appointees are: Camren Green and Tarik Andrus from SAB; Cherish Wilson, Tori Spraggins, Alexia Rubin, Elizabeth Coleman and Hayden Pilcher from SGA; Zachary Breaux and Daniel Crews from First Year Experience; and Students at Large Blaise Crochet and T'jah Edwards.

All appointees were approved in bulk.

A proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year was approved by the senate with none against.

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Greek life statistics highlight positive effects of membership

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

Greek life has been under heavy review over the past few years, with tragic stories of hazing deaths headlining national media. The increasing frequency of these stories has put national organizations under a microscope, and has led many to call for an end to Greek life.

Does Greek life in the United States resemble the narrative set by pop culture staples, such as the 1979 film "Animal House" and social media gags like Total Frat Movement? Or does Greek life offer everything it idealistically promises? The answer depends on who you talk to, but the statistics speak for themselves.

Since the Kappa Alpha Society started the first modern fraternal organization in 1825, Greek life in the United States has boomed in popularity. There are 123 fraternities and sororities nationwide, with over 9 million members nationally, encompassing around five percent of the national population. While that might seem like a small percentage, it is important to note that only around 33 percent of adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher, according to a study done by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2015.

"The overall results suggest that the Greek experience could be beneficial for the vast majority of those involved in it. Fraternities and sororities will continue to face challenges associated with the bad behaviors of some chapters and some members," said Executive Director of Gallup Education Brandon Busteed in an introduction to a study done on Greek life outcomes.

Across the U.S., schools have been cracking down on rules and regulations surrounding Greek life in order to prevent the unfortunate incidences of hazing-related deaths. While these stories leave a bad taste in the mouths of those who read it, it is important to focus on the prevalent positivesthat Greek life offers, not only to individuals, but to the nation as a whole.

Over $7 million dollars a year are fundraised by Greek organizations nationally, and 85 percent of all student leaders on campuses are Greek. On average, the Greek community has a 20 percent greater chance of graduating school than non-affiliated members. Every President and Vice President save two since the fraternity system started has been Greek, 76 percent of all congressmen and women are Greek and 85 percent of Fortune 500 executives are Greek.

The statistics go on and on, but they show without a doubt that people who involve themselves in Greek life during their undergraduate experience are marginally more successful than those who don't. The leadership lessons, lifelong connections, and organizational experience obtained through the Greek life system set individuals up for a lifetime of success.

KNWD incorporates changes to broadcasting

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Change is inevitable as the years pass, and KNWD 91.7FM is looking to bring a significant change to the station with their new direction in content.

KNWD mainstream broadcasting will be shifting away from their normal paid music to promote local bands and indie artists. This is so that the station to have its own "college radio" vibe that make it unique and better represent Northwestern State University in comparison to the other stations on the air.



"I'm thrilled to be able to get local artists and be able to sound different then major radio stations," said Kaiely Whinstoff, head of the music department. *Photo byVictoria Perkins.*

The change came into fruition when Ka'ihe Fisher, the general manager of KNWD, traveled to a college broadcasting conference in the summer and conversed with other college radio stations around the country.

After collaborating with these schools, he discovered they have supported local upcoming indie bands, especially when paid music is already played on other stations. As an unpaid radio station, KNWD looks to support the performers that aren't usually promoted on mainstream radio.

Kaiely Whinstoff, head of the music department, said that the station gets CDs from local bands that are looking to put in the rotation.

"I'm thrilled to able to get local artists and be able to sound different than major radio stations," said Whinstoff.

Two bands that are going to have their music broadcasted include Rella, winner of Attack of the Bands, and On Point Band. Ka'ihe and Kailey have stated if anyone would like for KNWD to play their music to send it to them and make sure it passes the Federal Communications Commission guidelines. KNWD will continue to have unique DJ's at certain times that get to broadcast their favorite songs.

The station also looks to expand their lineup with an upcoming podcast. KNWD holds discussions on the radio, but the podcast looks to provide a new platform for the team to discuss student problems without being limited by the FCC.

Ka'ihe states that the podcast is "their platform to be able to talk about things that they wouldn't feel comfortable talking about on air that will not only reach our community, but everywhere."

He hopes as the station continues to grow,

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A student oriented Professional Development Conference
Oct. 20th at 9 am – LSUS
Business Education Building

Sponsored by the Shreveport Journalism Foundation and the LSUS Department of Arts and Media

Conference Schedule
9 am – Registration and Breakfast Bites
9:30 am – Keynote Speaker – Randy Bain, News Director for KTBS TV
"Give & Take" - what to give to and take away from an internship.
10:30 am – Breakout Sessions – information on resume' and portfolio building in:
Video/Audio Production, Print Journalism, PR, Digital/Graphic Arts
Students will choose their area and get tips for getting job ready.
11:30 am – Review Sessions – Professionals in each area will be available to review the resume's and portfolios and reels presented by students.

HOTsauce

Editor's Note: Back in the 1970s, The Current Sauce ran a recurring column called "Hot Sauce," where any student could submit a question directly to NSU's president, and he would answer them in the following issue. NSU President Chris Maggio decided to help us bring that column back.

Q: If you were a student in 2018, what would you be doing today?

A: If I were a student in 2018, I would actually be majoring in the same field I did as a student in 1982 – 1986. I would be a student in our Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development. Just like 30 years ago, I would be surrounded by an amazing and nurturing faculty and receiving the best education and preparation that I could possibly have. Also, I would be involved on campus and getting ready for Homecoming activities!

Have a question for President Maggio? Submit them at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com. Nothing's off-limits!

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Snapchat is growing but our experiences are shrinking

Kierstin Richter
Copy Editor

"Oh, I'm sorry!"

Blondie tripped over me. Again. She waved around her phone, trying to get a decent video of the party around us, but practically tripped over me every time she turned around.

Partially tequila. Mostly the fact she had tunnel vision on her little iPhone screen, seeing her world within only six inches of pure LED light.

I walked around, and everywhere I looked, there were girls everywhere taking selfies with the one of two



people they came with. Talking to few others, the sat awkwardly on the couch and filmed the action around them. It created the illusion they were living it up, but in reality, they were barely interacting with people at all.

"Wait, wait! Did you get it on snap?!" A group of girls danced around, and they came to a complete halt.

"Here! No, take my phone. This time for my story!"

She assumed the same spot as before and recreated the dance she made up to Bodak Yellow playing on the speakers.

It was kind of like telling a joke the second time—it just doesn't have the same effect.

We've seen it time and time before. Every moment of every day is documented on our phones. Last summer, I was at a Journey concert, and every person under the age of thirty was watching the band play through their six inch LED screens. It was unsettling. This amazing band was playing, the bass shook my insides, and you could just feel soul in the air. But what was everyone doing? Recording it to show all their friends that they were there and having a good time. But were they really having a good time? Or are we just creating the illusion of a perfect life?

"Pics or it didn't happen."

That's the philosophy everyone seems to live by. If the whole world doesn't know on social media what an exciting life you have, do you really have one? It's like the question of if a tree falls in a forest and no one hears it, did it make a sound?

We're living by the same philosophy. We live to show others how exciting we are, when in reality, we're all just hiding behind our screens, creating online presences of ourselves that take care of our reputations for us. As long as we look good online, we're okay. This needs to end. Snapchat is growing, making it possible to see every second of everyone's day- and even their locations, but it is diminishing our social skills and robbing us of real experiences.

In the end, will the illusion of your "perfect" life matter? What other people thought-will it ever help you in any way? Or will it just hinder you of truly enjoying life? Life off camera. Raw and unfiltered. Where the real fun is.

Attack of the Bands





At KNWD's "Attack of the Bands" event on Thursday, Oct. 11, four local bands competed at Northwestern State University's Normal Hill, including Valé, BluVuDoo, Rella and On Point Band. Rella won the competition. Students participated in a pumpkin contest and a costume contest, with the winner of the pumpkin contest getting free tickets to Dark Woods and CAPA's Rocky Horror Picture Show. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

Ask Vic

Q *Hey Vic! I'm a senior trying to make it through my fourth year at NSU. Honestly, I'm so sick of living here. I'm trying to remain positive, but I've developed a very negative attitude towards Natchitoches, and I catch myself overwhelmingly annoyed with this town every day. What can I do to get out of this mindset?*

A Living in Natchitoches is kind of like being in a long term relationship. For the first couple of years, it's the honeymoon period. Everything is wonderful and bright and new and shiny. After that, the excitement begins to fade, and you live your days with a boring routine. It's not shiny anymore.

My advice? Spice it up. The reason people love (or despise) Natty is the people. By this time, you've probably made some pretty solid friends over the past four years. It's so incredibly important to hang onto those friendships. Take a weekend out with them to go on a little adventure. Get everyone together for a night at the Pub or wild out at Antoon's. Go camping. Stay local if you can, but if you really need a break, go on a road trip and get out of town for a couple days. Sometimes you need a breath of fresh air to come back with a fresh perspective.

Appreciate the friends you've made here and realize that, unless you're stuck here another couple of years, this is the last of everything.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!
@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Cellist Craig Hultgren to perform at NSU

Leah Jackson
Director of Public Information and Media Relations

NATCHITOCHES – Cellist Craig Hultgren will present a recital at Northwestern State University on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public. Hultgren will also be providing a master class for NSU cello students on Oct. 18.

The program will include "Orbital Variations for solo cello" by Shawn Crouch, "Beat for cello with electronics" by David Bohn, "Incendiary Rhetoric a politically inspired rant for cello & speaking cellist" by Alan Schmitz, "Improvisation for amplified cello" by Craig Hultgren, "Ce cE ceLLo for cello & sound file" by Joe L. Alexander, "Arguments with Myself for solo cello" by Todd Gabriel and "Turning and Turning in the Widening Gyre for cello & fixed media by Charles Norman Mason

Hultgren remains active in new music, the newly creative arts and the avant-garde. Recently leaving Birmingham after more than 30 years as a member of the Alabama Symphony, he now resides outside of Decorah, Iowa as the farmer-cellist. The New York Classical Review commented that he, "...played with impressive poise and sensitivity..." for Dorothy Hindman's 2016 chamber music retrospective at Carnegie Hall.

Almost 300 works have been created for him. A recipient of two Artist Fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, he was a member for many years of Thámyris, a contemporary chamber music ensemble in Atlanta. He is a founding member of Luna Nova, a new music ensemble with a large repertoire of performances available as podcast downloads on iTunes. Hultgren is featured in three solo CD recordings including "The Electro-Acoustic Cello Book on Living Artist Recordings."

For 10 years, he produced the Hultgren Solo Cello Works Biennial, an international competition that highlighted the best new compositions for the instrument. He taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Wartburg College (Iowa) and Birmingham-Southern College where he directed the BSC New Music Ensemble. He is a founding member and former President of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance and was on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of Birmingham and their Scrollworks program. He is vice president of the Oneota Valley Community Orchestra Board of Directors in Decorah, and he will become chair of the Board of Directors for the Iowa Composers Forum in 2019.

For further information on the recital, call (318) 357 5802.



Eyes of Argus: Mainstream Conversation

Brandy Ranel

Words have power.
This is true
Sticks and stones can crush your bones
but, Words will forever haunt you
The Art of Communication
Starts with a sound
Can you hear me now?
Don't speak!
Unless, I agree with what you're saying
There is no explaining
Difference in opinion
has been deemed hate
Use freedom of speech
Gives us the right to delineate your fate
Knowledge is power.
Oh, but Language what a tangled web you weave
Potential to be devoured or
To do the devouring
What will you choose?
Think wisely, for with
Language
'Tis always a loser
And a winner.



The catholic girl's guide to divorce

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Throughout my four years at a Catholic high school, several theological stances were drilled into my brain: abortion, morality, sex before marriage, etc.

By now, I'm sure that we all have read something about Catholics believing in this or not believing in that, but not many people know what goes through the mind a Catholic teenage girl when her whole life has been surrounded by divorce.

I believe that love is endless and that everyone has someone or something they love. The Catholic Church doesn't condemn divorcees, but they make it known that it isn't right. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church Articles 2381-84, divorce is listed as a serious and immoral offense. It breaks God's contract of marriage and goes against natural law. If divorcees decide to get remarried their partners have also committed adultery.

Divorce in the Catholic Church is something that more people need to address. Marriages end, children go back and forth between parents and that is okay. It takes years to overcome, and honestly, I'm still not over it. I still go back and forth between my parents because that is my normal. It's all I know. I'm not trying to sugar-coat divorce because it does suck, and I wish every child were able to see both parents or end up with great stepparents.

I understand the divorce doctrine for the Church, but I don't agree with it. I believe that God's love ties a man and woman together through matrimony. That is beautiful and it brings me joy that God is blessing two people on the happiest day of their lives.

What I don't understand is why marriage is treated as a contract. Sometimes things don't work out, that is life, and both parties need to be considered when that happens. I believe that God understands this and wants everyone to be happy because he loves us. So even if two people end up getting divorced that does not mean God loves them any less or that he won't bring the right person into both of their lives.

Because of this, I am glad that divorce is an option, though it should be the last option. Anyone with divorced parents should not feel like the divorce was their fault. I decided that my life would not be defined on the fact that I had to witness two people that I love dearly fall out of love with each other. I also decided that my view on love would be positive and that love gives people second chances when they are ready. My family may seem broken, but it isn't. I am blessed with two different but complete families.

So, when I tell someone that my parents are divorced, I say it with pride. No one needs to try and console me or tell me what they think I want to hear. My life wasn't terrible. I may have come from a broken home, but it didn't mean that I was broken.

NS You

What do you like best about NSU?



It's a lot easier to get opportunities that at bigger schools, would be usually given to a Grad Assistant.

Chris Ball
Music Business



The theater department is top notch! I love every performance they do. Also the Spirit of Northwestern always puts me in a good mood at games

Eric Pannell II
Music Education
Senior



Purple is my favorite color, and I get to wear it every day.

Jenny Loftin
Sophomore
Hospitality Management and Tourism



I like how small the campus is and how one-to-one the professors are with you. Also, the band program is one of the best!

Kylie Nix
Criminal Justice
Sophomore

An inside look at NSU's international students



Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

America is the land of the free, the land where your dreams can become a reality and a place where nothing is impossible. My grandmother called it "Aljan'nan Dunia," which translates to "the paradise on earth." One can see why it is the dream of international students to leave their country and embark on a journey to America.

I am from Nigeria, and coming to study at Northwestern State University has been a dream come true.

My uncle, Bukar Ibn-Mohammed, fulfilled a promise that he made to me when I was only nine years old. He said all I had to do was succeed in school and he would bring me to NSU. This meant I could go to the very place that I always watched on TV and possibly make something of myself. More importantly, I could remove my mother from poverty and give her the life she deserves.

Despite all the adjustment struggles I have had, my uncle has been there for me every step of the way. The opportunity to fulfill my potential has never been closer.

Like anything else, however, the transition has its ups and downs. Being here has presented endless opportunities for international students to succeed and begin a new life, but we have to go through some stressful experiences.

A lot of us go through a period of culture shock which is mostly within our first year of being here in America. Culture shock can include anxiety when meeting new people and their different and unusual social behaviors. For almost every international student, language barriers are the number one issue. A student's level of comfort with the culture of their new home can determine their learning experience. It can be an emotional rollercoaster being so far away from family and friends.

Saily Romero, a new international student from Columbia, dreamed of coming to America, improving herself and living her dream. She said she is the happiest girl in the world because her dream came true. Being in here at NSU is changing her entire life. However, she struggles with the language barrier.

"When I came here, I thought it would be easy," Romero said. "[I thought] I would have a lot of friends but that's not true. It is challenge but it is not impossible."

Hassik Vasquez Narvaez is also an international student from Columbia. He has been here for five years.

"The hardest part for me is English, at least for the first year," he said. "But it got better."

Narvaez didn't even own a bike when he got here, so he had to walk to school. He had three goals when he got here: to get a "valuable degree," to learn English and to get to know a lot of people, which would be beneficial to his musical career. He is a senior and he is one of the best students in the School of Business as well as the music departments.

These are the qualities that international students possess: determination, curiosity, a craving to grow and most importantly, hard work. Some of us aren't just here for ourselves or our dreams. Some of us are here to provide a better future for our families, our communities and, for those of us who dream bigger, our country.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing that is worth having comes easy." For us international students, the road to success may not be easy. There may be some bumps in the road, but no matter what adversities come our way, we will keep going with the memory of our homes forever with us.



"You look at what Central Arkansas has done the last several years—that's where we want to get to," Head Coach Brad Laird said. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Demons football reflect on losses, prepare for Central Arkansas

Matthew Craig
Reporter

Northwestern State (2-4 overall, 1-3 in the Southland Conference) was not able to end their current losing streak as they fell to Sam Houston (4-2 overall, 3-1 in the Southland Conference) over the weekend to make their current losing streak three games. The final score was 42-28.

Sam Houston came out strong going up 14-0 in the first quarter, but the Demons fought their way back into the game by scoring three straight times and going up 21-14 midway through the second quarter. Head Coach Brad Laird said his team showed resilience by getting back into the game and not giving up.

"To be down 14 nothing at the end of the first quarter against a top 15 team that won the conference four out of the last seven, then we battle back to score three straight to make it 21-14. The resiliencies of the guys I thought was awesome," Laird said.

Laird thought the second half is where Sam Houston put them away, but he believes a sequence at the end of the first half altered the team's momentum.

"They made some plays there in the second half to win the football game," Laird said. "But you go back to that first half, [there's] a lot of highs and lows of being down 14, [and] then we score three straight, then we fumble a punt in their territory and they get the ball. Then we have them at 3rd and 15 and we get a penalty, they get a first down and they end up converting and making it 21 – 21. So a lot of ups and downs right there."

Junior Linebacker Quindarrius Whitey is in his first year with the Demons as he is a transfer from Holmes Community College. Going from Junior College to D-1 football can be a big jump, but it has not stopped Whitey from leading the team in tackles with 46 total tackles, a fact he dismisses.

"The season is going well for me, but my personal stats don't really matter," Whitey said. "I want to win. I'm all about my team and I want to do whatever I can to contribute to the goal we have."

Whitey said making the transition to D-1 football was tough and he lost confidence in himself, but his team helped him overcome that.

"My transition to D-1 wasn't the easiest thing in the world. I lost a lot of confidence in my ability by the time the season began," he said. "However, my linebacker brothers and intrinsic motivation helped me strive forward."

Junior Quarterback Shelton Eppler threw for three touchdowns and 351 yards against Sam Houston over the weekend.

Even though Eppler threw for his second highest passing yards in a game all season, he felt the offense is what let the Demons down this past weekend.

"I felt the defense did a good job forcing turnovers and I felt the offense started out slow," Eppler said. "We picked it up a little, [but] then turnovers got the best of us and we did not take advantage of the opportunities like those turnovers the defense got for us, and it was too late to make a comeback."

The Demons are going on the road to take on Central Arkansas (4-2 overall, 3-1 in the Southland Conference) this weekend on Oct. 20 as they look to break their three-game losing streak.

Head Coach Laird said he knows what Central Arkansas brings to the table and knows they have an opportunity to gauge themselves coming off three losses.

"You look at what [Central Arkansas] has done the last several years and the consistency they bring within their program—that's where we want to get to," Laird said. "We get an opportunity to gauge ourselves coming off three loses."

Cross country finishes regular season strong at Mississippi College Invitational

Chris Little
NSU Sports Information

CLINTON, Miss.-- The Northwestern State cross country teams wrapped up the 2018 regular season at the Mississippi College invitational on a high note with both teams finishing in the top third of a huge field of competition for either gender.

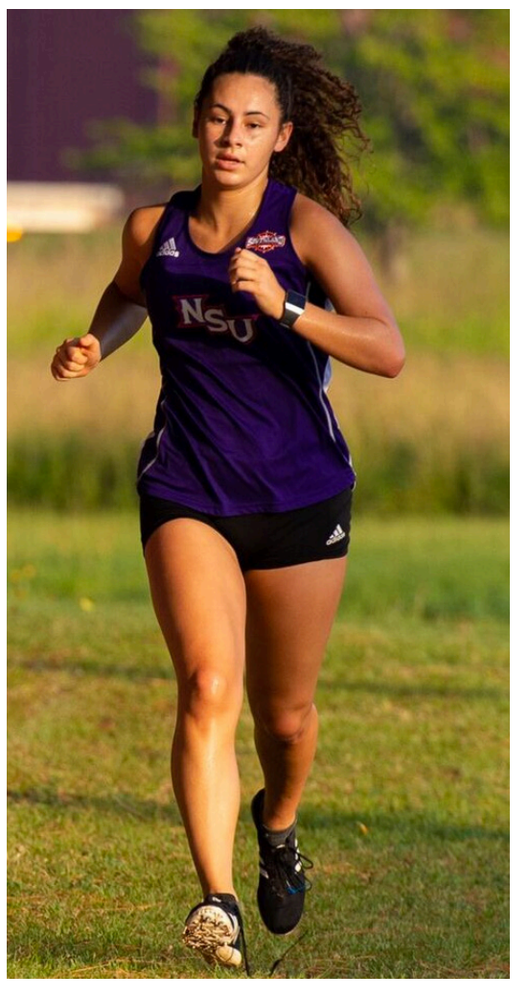
The Demons finished in sixth place out of 22 teams as senior Brandon Lewis-Graham led the way individually at 15th in an 8,000 meter run amongst a group of 163 runners with a time of 26:25.77. The Lady Demons again paced relatively closely to each other as the group finished in fifth place with four of five scorers placing inside 50th out of 143 runners on 20 teams. The final scorer was not far outside at 53rd.

"That was the most competitive both teams have run this year," said head coach Chris Sauer. We love coming to this course and had a lot of athletes put themselves out there and had some great results to show for it."

Lewis Graham was followed across the finish line by Yannick Garland (21st-26:35.00), Cody Robinson (35th-27:12.00), Darius Groves (47th-27:36.18), and Clay Casner (64th-28:11.06). The team combined for 172 points with a total time of 2:16:00.01, 58 seconds faster than the average time last season at the same meet.

"I think we should have been one or two places higher, but for a lot of them it was their first 8,000. Brandon was a bit disappointed with his race but it's still a personal record on this course; he has more in the tank," said Sauer. Yannik and Cody both had phenomenal races. It's nice to see things starting to click for them. Every single guy either ran their best 8,000, or their best time on this course."

The women were, once again, led by Isabella Hudson in 18th place with a time of 19:52.93 in the 5,000 run. The sophomore has finished all four races this season as the Lady Demons' top finisher as her team tallied 149 points, losing out on the tie-breaker with Grambling. Rounding out the final four scorers were Emily Blanchard (22nd-20:05.53), Jasmine Dansby (33rd-20:28.19), Emily Heard (40th-20:51.01), and Kenanna Osby (53rd-21:32.26). Today's performances by Blanchard and Dansby gives them their second highest finish on the year while Hudson tied her second best.



Isabella Hudson. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

"The girls ran a very bold race. We wanted to go into this trying to be more competitive and got exactly that," said Sauer. "Isabella Hudson, Emily Blanchard, and Jasmine Dansby all got every possible second out of themselves today. I'm really impressed with how they went for it right from the gun. There are some small nagging injuries that they they've finally gotten past. By conference, I think we'll have a much better look at what our full scoring group can do."

Southeastern Louisiana claimed the women's team title by a large margin, scoring 39 points compared to second-place William Carey University's 102. Louisiana Tech edged out a men's team victory with 50 points, with SELA close behind with 58.

Up next for Northwestern State University's cross country team will be the 2018 Southland Conference Championships in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on Oct. 26.

Intramurals: A sport for the whole school

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

Whether longtime athlete or just in it for the fun, Northwestern State University's intramurals are something for everyone to get involved in.

"It's literally for everyone, it's just something fun that you can do with your people, but you're not a professional," says sophomore Brette Reaux, the Athletic Intramural Director for Tri Sigma Sorority.

Volleyball, flag football and soccer are just a few of the many offered in the fall semester. Smaller sports, like pickleball and rock/paper/scissors or 'roshambo' are offered as well on a weekly basis to any student that wants to participate.

When asked about what was most enjoyable about the intramurals, NSU student Kalee McGuffee spoke of "a place [for your sisters] that you can all get together and learn something new."

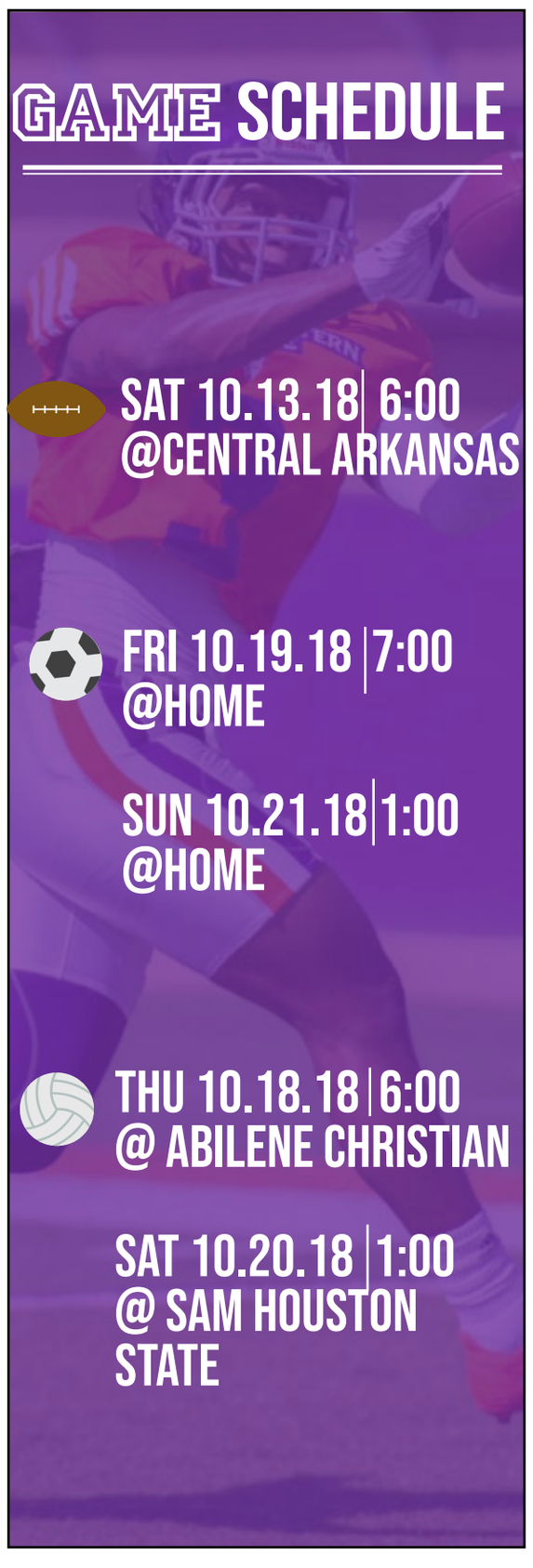
One doesn't have to be in a sorority or fraternity to participate, however. Student Bobby Armstrong referees several games a week and participates in his team.

"You make your own team and compete against everybody," said Armstrong.

Along with creating teams, organizations such as the BCM participate as well. Over the years at NSU, intramurals have steadily grown more popular.

"Pretty much we've doubled since I've been here, in terms of size," said Assistant Director for Intramurals and Club Sports Jason Stelly, who has worked at NSU since 2008. "We've always had steady increase and steady participation, and we hope to grow from there."

Intramurals take place not only at Northwestern, but at several universities across the state. NSU competes against 12 to 14 other public universities in the state championships which will take place at the University of Louisiana at Monroe in November.



Barbier honored as Exchange Bank Demon Great of the Game

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director

NATCHITOCHES – The list of accolades Bobby Barbier been awarded as a Northwestern State Demon grew by one Saturday night.

Barbier was honored as the Exchange Bank Demon Great of the Game during the first quarter of the Demons' 42-28 loss to Sam Houston State.

A former Academic All-American and All-Southland Conference first baseman, Barbier made more school history during his second season as the baseball coach at his alma mater. Barbier took the 2018 Northwestern State baseball team from a projected 11th-place conference finish to its first Southland Conference Tournament championship and its first NCAA Regional appearance in 13 years.

The Demons' success led to Barbier being named the Clay Gould Southland Conference Coach of the Year, the Louisiana Sports Writers Association's Louisiana Coach of the Year and the American Baseball Coaches Association's Central Region Coach of the Year.

As a player, Barbier was part of Northwestern State's 2005 Southland Conference championship team and left as the program's leader in hit by pitches.

Barbier still holds school top-10 career marks in at-bats, RBIs, runs scored and hit by pitches.

A Demon Great of the Game is spotlighted at each home football game. In its first five-plus seasons, the Great of the Game presented by Exchange Bank and Trust has honored 27 outstanding figures in the 110-year history of NSU athletics.

Exchange Bank and Trust has been a key supporter of Northwestern State University Athletics throughout its long history as the oldest financial institution in Louisiana.

the CURRENTsauce

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UNIVERSITY POLICE BLOTTER

10-1-18
Theft - Watson Library

10-3-18
Hit and Run - Watson Library

10-4-18
Hit and Run - Watson Library

10-4-18
Threats Against Person - Online

10-4-18
Telephone Harassment - Campus

10-6-18
Telephone Harassment- Campus

10-6-18
Property Damage - Varnado Parking

10-6-18
Property Damage - Varnado Parking

10-9-18
Theft - Green Space Parking Lot

10-12-18
Property Damage - Caspari St.

10-14-18
Stalking - UP2

10-14-18
Drug Law Violation - Varnado Hall

10-16-18
Threat - Physical Plant

10-16-18
Noise Complaint - University Columns

10-17-18
Stalking - Campus

10-17-18
Hit and Run - University Columns

10-18-18
Battery - Upper Parking Lot 25

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Student attacked at UP2 parking lot

Leanna Coy & Jacob Bennett
Reporter & Editor-in-Chief

A student was attacked Thursday in the University Place II parking lot. The student was exiting Iberville Dining Hall when a stranger walked up behind him.

"I noticed someone walking close behind me, so I moved to get out of their way and before I knew it, I saw a fist hit my eye," the victim said. "I got six stitches in my right eyebrow and a black eye, bruises all over my right side of the face and back of my head and a big scrape on my knee."

The attack happened around noon. Witnesses took the victim to the police station to file a report. Henry Edward James Hall, the suspect, who does not attend Northwestern, was later arrested and charged with second degree battery, and is currently being held at the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center.

"The safety of students is our highest concern," said NSU President Chris Maggio. "It is paramount."

Craig Vercher, campus chief of police, said students should feel safe at NSU.

"This was an isolated incident," Vercher said. "No one in our community has anything to be concerned of."

The incident is still undergoing investigation.



Char Wilson and Rebekah Aultman. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

Meet your homecoming king and queen

Leanna Coy
Reporter

The decision is in, Char Wilson and Rebekah Aultman are Northwestern State University's homecoming king and queen, respectively.

Alex Broussard, freshman, said he voted for homecoming court. "I voted because I'm excited for homecoming week," Broussard said.

Wilson said he is honored to have the position. "I'm almost certain I received a noise complaint in University Columns from my high-pitched screams," Wilson said about the moment he found out he won Homecoming King.

Wilson and Aultman are both involved in activities around campus. Wilson is a member of the Student Activities Board, Pi Kappa Phi, the Spirit of Northwestern and First Year Experience, while Aultman is a member of Tri Sigma, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Presidential Leadership Program, Alpha Lamba Delta, Purple Jackets Honor Society, Order of Omega, Phi Kappa Phi, Demon Days and Demon VIP. Both students have also served as Freshman Connectors.

"I want people to look at me and know that there is a story behind the crown," Aultman said about how she plans to use her platform as homecoming queen.

She said the campus has provided many opportunities. "I want people to know that being involved on campus and in the community will make an impact that will last longer than four years," Aultman said.

NSU will play its homecoming game against Houston Baptist University on Oct. 27.



Photo courtesy of NSUDemons.com

University mourns the loss of beloved student athlete

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

Daeshon Gordon, a senior at Northwestern State University, died suddenly Sunday morning of currently unknown causes.

A Jamaica native, Gordon, 22, was a Communications major and hurdler on the track and field team. She long aspired to be an elementary school teacher.

She was "one of the sweetest souls I think I've met here at Northwestern," junior Collin Milton said. "She had the best intentions for everyone that she was around."

A vigil in her honor will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Walter P. Ledet Track Complex and is open to all.

"We'll be doing a candlelight, walking a lap around the track, setting up hurdles and wrapping a ribbon around each one," said Adam Pennington, associate head track and field coach. "We're going to honor her and give her what she deserves."

Pennington recruited Gordon out of LSU, where she first attended college and was a two-time All-America hurdler. Over two seasons, Gordon's NSU honors include numerous achievements in hurdles and relay racing including school records in the 100- and 60-meter hurdles.

"We were really close," said senior and fellow hurdler Jamaria Smith. "I met her when she first came here from LSU. Since then she's been my girl."

Gordan "was supposed to be out here training us this season, so that hurts a lot," Smith said.

She was "a phenomenal young lady," said NSU President Chris Maggio. "She represented the university at the highest levels as a student athlete. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family during this tragic time, as well as the Northwestern track and field family."

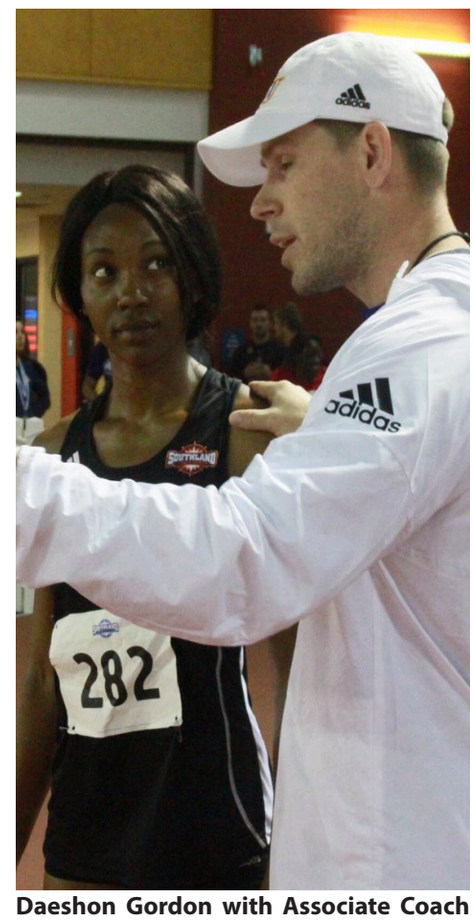
Pennington had a particularly close bond with Gordon and praised her work ethic.

"She wasn't only a great athlete for us but a great leader and a good student," Pennington said. "She took on a lot of roles that I don't think she had to take on."

Milton recounted a video he saw of Gordon from her high school days when she was trying to get recruited by various colleges. A woman had asked her how she wanted to be remembered when people talked about her.

Daeshon answered, "I want people to say 'That girl could run.'"

"And yeah," Milton said. "That girl could run."



Daeshon Gordon with Associate Coach Adam Pennington. *Submitted photo.*



Photo courtesy of Cane River Brewing Co.

Cane River Brewing Co. to open next month

Brian Jordan
Reporter

Natchitoches will soon receive a brand-new business venture as Cane River Brewing Co. plans to open its doors within the next few weeks after starting construction earlier this year.

The brewery will open with four main beers: an American pale ale, an India pale ale, a pilsner and a porter. Seasonal beers will be on rotation throughout the year, with limited time beers offered on location only in the tap-room. Non-alcoholic options will include root beer and cream soda.

The brewery was founded by longtime friends and Northwestern State University alumni Justin Krouse, 30, and Cade Gentry, 31, who were born and raised in Natchitoches. The project began five years ago as the pair were looking to open a restaurant but turned their efforts to brewing beer when they realized a demand for local beer.

To prepare for their venture Gentry and Krouse attended a two-week course in Chicago. "It covered everything from water to grains to the different styles of beer," Krouse said.

To help with the brewery process Gentry and Krouse hired brew master Brooks Hamaker, who has helped in opening over 20 breweries across the U.S., including Abita.

Some neighboring residents were originally concerned about the brewery, located in an old cotton gin building on Mills Street, due to potential noise pollution and a misunderstanding of what the business would be doing.

"There were some people who had their doubts on exactly what we were doing and didn't know exactly what a brewery was," Krouse said. "Some thought it was like a night club, but we're all about making beer and tasting beer."

When seeking approval from the city, the city council voted unanimously to allow the city to lease the cotton gin building, with Mayor Lee Posey saying, "it's only going to be 65 decibels, and this is not unpleasant to the ears."

"We saw a little push back in the beginning, but everyone is supporting us now," Gentry said.

"I think it's a brilliant idea for Natchitoches to have its own beer," Northwestern State University Alumni Richard Sargee said. "It'll do great during festivals and give a lot back to the town."

Though no set date for the grand opening has been announced, the co-founders assured it'd be within a few weeks.

"We'll open definitely in November," Gentry said. "We plan to catch the holiday season in Natchitoches."

The brewery will feature an indoor tap room with an outside seating area, and tours will be available to see the brewing process shortly after opening.

Their alcohol will be available in restaurants and bars between Shreveport and Alexandria with hopes to expand the entirety of Louisiana and eastern Texas within two years.

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! My roommate has a new boyfriend and he practically lives at our dorm. It's already a small space, and I always feel like a third wheel. It's not that there is anything necessarily wrong with him, but he's just always there, and I feel uncomfortable in my own dorm. It would be different if we had a private set up, but we live in a shared dorm.

A Three's a crowd. No lie. First of all, bring it up to her. You don't need to get angry or upset with her, because if she really likes this guy, she doesn't see a problem with having him over all the time. Plus, she may get defensive. (Maybe even throw out the ol' "You're just jealous!")

Communicate (nicely) to her that having three people in one little room is uncomfortable for you, and you feel like you have to tip-toe in your own place.

It may be a little awkward (it will), but having your feelings out in the clear will help, especially come second semester. Your dorm is a shared space, and you're both paying, so you always have a say in what goes on there.

And if worse comes to worse, you can always get creative. Play weird music or find a strange little animal. Maybe if he thinks his girlfriend's roommate is crazy, he may not hang out there as much in fear for his life.

Whatever floats your goat.

(Not condoning illegal wild animal ownership in the dorms, but desperate times call for desperate measures, right?)

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



Kathleen Hilliard after last week's home game against Central Arkansas. *Photo by Hannah Pettus.*

What it's like to be in the Spirit of Northwestern

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

Performing in the Spirit of Northwestern is a privilege of mine, and an amazing experience. The Demon Heat Color Guard is an organization that I have dreamed about being a part of since my sophomore year of high school, when I first saw them perform at one of our competitions.

I joined my high school's color guard my first year, and seeing how big and exciting the Spirit of Northwestern was encouraged me to work hard, so I could audition. This is now my fifth year of doing what I love. Many people only see the halftime performances, or one of the many exhibitions we do.

But behind every halftime show are hours of individual rehearsal, and long days preparing for competition. There are sectionals, where each individual section of the guard gets together and rehearses. We also practice on our own time, around school and homework. Practices involve learning entire shows in only a few days, along with occasional midnight and weekend rehearsals to fine-tune our performance.

We work tirelessly to memorize the counts in the music, and where every hand should be during every moment. The stereotype that we're 'just flinging a flag' is far from reality. It may seem like a large amount of time to dedicate, and it is, but the feeling of marching on the light-flooded field with the applause of the audience is a second to none experience.

It's such an empowering feeling seeing hard work and dedication pay off with a great performance or an awesome action shot. Colorguard is a sport that you go all out for, because you need strength, endurance and mental resilience to get a handle on your equipment. The flag and rifle are the two pieces of equipment that people see the most in our fall season.

Behind the scenes of "the best sounding band in the land" and the Demon Heat Colorguard is something that only its members can understand the depth of, and it's worth every hot practice, long bus rides and aching muscle pains. We watch each other grow every day as performers and people. It's more than just a sport or a job; it's a family.

Sony's 'Venom' is a 50% success

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

When Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man 3" came out in 2007, I remember being excited to go see it. One of the main villains, Venom, was portrayed by Topher Grace. After watching the film, I was disappointed by his portrayal.

After so many years, Venom gets another chance at the big screen in the Ruben Fleischer-directed "Venom" standalone, with Tom Hardy in the title role. Eddie Brock and his dynamic with Venom was one of the best parts of the film.

However, I feel Sony's attempt at adapting the "Lethal Protector" comic book storyline fell flat.

The plot and pacing of the movie feels sloppy. The beginning of the movie drags, and it was not that intriguing to me. It felt like "Venom" didn't have a consistent tone. For example, the film lacked a balance between its comical and serious aspects. It was almost like a reboot 2003's "Catwoman."

There were also some questionable points to the film's script.

Despite all of that, I found some of the action scenes to be creative and genuinely entertaining. The special effects and CGI in particular looked impressive in its detail.

One of my major problems with the movie came from the Venom's motivation. Some of his behaviors during his journey to become an anti-hero felt underdeveloped.

I enjoyed the movie, but it didn't live up to its potential. Hopefully, they put more time and effort into the sure-to-come sequel.



Jonathan Andino and Valeria Nieto practice in the CAPA courtyard. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

30 years of the School of Creative and Performing Arts

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

This year marks the 30 year anniversary of the School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State.

"We are very excited to celebrate 30 years of bringing artistic endeavors to the university campus and the Natchitoches community," said Dean Greg A. Handel, director of CAPA.

He added that a lot of activities are lined up for the celebration. The celebration will cover all aspects of CAPA.

"We get to celebrate all of the performers, actors, dancers, artists and all of our successful alumni who are out in their artistic fields doing work and crediting what they learned here in CAPA," Handel said.

This year marks Handel's 11th year at CAPA. He said he is very happy to be part of the celebration. "I am honored to celebrate and be part of the 30 years of Creative and performance art celebration," Handel said.

Michael Rorex, an associate professor, has been at CAPA for 20 years. He will direct this year's Christmas Gala.

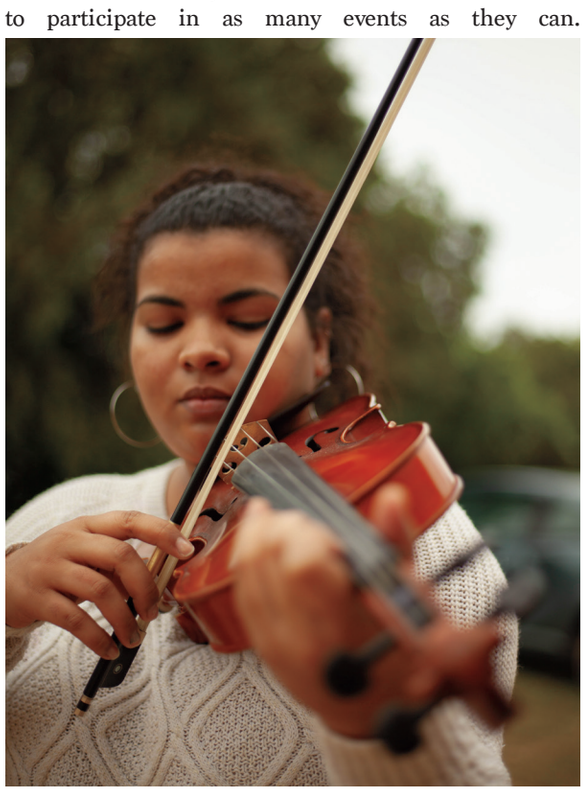
There will also be alumni performing during the celebration. "Every area of CAPA is creating special events to celebrate this year," Rorex said.

Hassik Vasquez Narvaez, a CAPA student, said he is looking forward to the Gala.

"I think it is going to be great, it is going to be the biggest one, maybe the longest one," Narvaez said.

He said he does not think it will be stressful, adding that "It is going to be the best one ever."

Rorex encourages students to take part in the celebration by. He said he wants students to participate in as many events as they can.

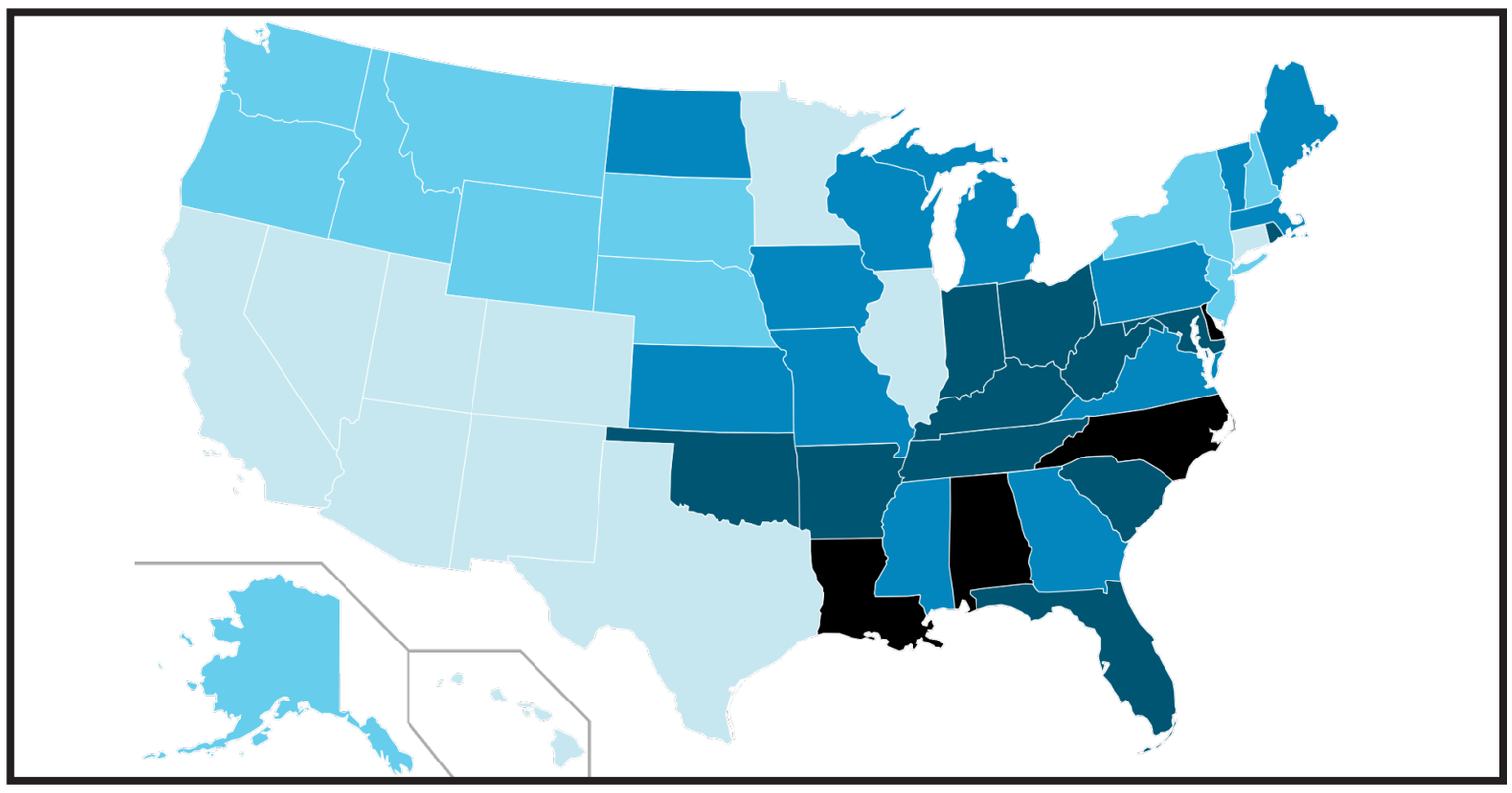


Eyes of Argus: Mainstream Conversation

André Boyer

I hear.
I listen.
I speak.
I sing.
I dance.
When we connect I'm instantly in a trance
Like a rope has griped my soul
No other thing has ever made me more enhanced
It nourishes me like no other food
It supports me like no ground could ever do
It excites me like a kid at the zoo
When I can not speak it becomes my voice
When I can not find the words to explain my confusion that is life
It becomes my source
I can not go long without it because it's with me from the start
It's like a foreign language that only I can understand
My soul is in tune to the vibrations
It is a part of me, every strand
And has enchanted generations
That which is beloved
Music.
Is my hub
It encompasses my fears, strength, anger, happiness, love, and sadness.
It allows me to be human.

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The darker the shade of the state, the higher the percentage of youth with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Louisiana has one of the highest rates of ADHD youth. *Graphic courtesy of the Wikimedia Foundation.*

What life is like as a student with ADHD

Chase Slater
Contributing Writer



On the outside, my life looks the same as everyone else's, but I feel completely different on the inside.

My brain always seems to be going 100 mph and I cannot seem to stop. I get distracted easily. I have trouble starting tasks, and even when I do start, I have trouble finishing. I have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder—ADHD for short.

Dr. Edward Hallowell says ADHD is like having "a racecar brain with bicycle brakes." I have heard others describe it as their brain flipping through 30 TV channels, but they don't have the remote.

ADHD is not what it seems. Everyone experiences some symptoms of AHDH, but the brains that actually have it are constantly impacted by it. It appears in differently for different people.

ADHD is recognized by three symptoms: impulsivity, inattention and hyperactivity.

We do not have a deficit of attention. Instead, we have trouble regulating our attention. For example, sometimes I start cooking something, only to forget about it for an hour. I repeatedly forget where my keys and phone are only to find them three hours later in the pantry or some other odd place like the refrigerator.

However, we do have a superpower that no one really talks about when discussing ADHD: hyper-focus. When we find something that is stimulating to our brain in the right way, we can focus on it for hours and nothing is able to tear us away, even the important stuff (food, sleep, work, etc.).

ADHD brains develop and function differently than neurotypical (average) brains. ADHD brains have a deficit in the some of the brain chemicals that help with executive function (your brain's ability to plan, prioritize and maintain effort toward a goal).

Some say that ADHD does not exist, but it is one of the most well-researched neurodevelopmental disorders in the world. This month is ADHD awareness month. If you know someone with ADHD, make an effort to encourage them.

Dear Daeshon

Jasmine Frazier
Contributing Writer



There aren't too many people in this world that you meet like Daeshon Gordon. She touched so many people without even knowing.

A lot of people know Dae to be the most amazing athlete! She was like a freak of nature. Any event you needed her to compete in, she was always physically capable of doing. She was filled with so many talents, but not many people had the opportunity to know them all.

She was the most loving, kind hearted and supportive friend you could have asked for. Daeshon's strength, motivation and determination always inspired us. Anything she put her mind to, she stuck to. It didn't matter how lazy she may have felt or how tired she might have been, her dreams were what mattered to her.

At NSU she gained a family, and best friends who will never forget her. She leaves behind a legacy of being the fastest 100-meter hurdler in Northwestern State's history. One of her lifelong dreams was to become an elementary school teacher and change the lives of unfortunate children.

We will always miss you and love you. Please watch over us.

Love, the track and field team.

Quote of the Week

As long as I live,
you will live
As long as I live,
you will be remembered
As long as I live,
you will be loved

-Unknown



SGA President Jacob Elliis and Current Sauce Editor-in-Chief Jacob Bennett. *Photo by Trinity Velazquez.*

Student leadership: A tale of 2 Jacobs

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor



For the 2018-2019 school year Northwestern State University has seen a huge rise in student leaders. I feel very lucky to be under the leadership of two close friends of mine. Jacob Ellis and Jacob Bennett are both upperclassman and are two of the most open guys that I have met on this campus.

There is no doubt in my mind that the students are in good hands this year. Jacob Ellis is Student Government Association

President for this year while Jacob Bennett is the Current Sauce's Editor-in-Chief. Both execute their power well and are incredible student leaders. They put their full power into something that they support and always have the students' interest in mind.

What I admire about Jacob Ellis is that he is not who you think he is. Jacob may be in an elevated position, but he sees himself as a regular college student just trying to graduate. He doesn't think of himself as a "higher-up" or that he is better than anyone. Jacob Ellis is also always ready to listen. It doesn't matter who he meets, he has this ability to understand and connect with anyone.

Jacob Bennett is someone I am so proud to know. The way he can argue both sides of a point is one of the many reasons why I think he is great at his job. He is outspoken, ambitious and considerate. He never wants anyone to feel restricted and has a very realistic approach to the world which sometimes gets on my nerves, but always leaves me thinking.

This is what being a student leader means to me. Students are the heart, body and soul of our college campus. Being a student leader is not someone who is popular, rich, or in Greek life. A student leader is well-known, hard-working and dedicated to making the student experience the best it can be. Becoming a student leader is not easy—ask anyone going through Freshman Connection or managing a social event for their organization. There are months of planning, numerous interviews and endless faculty members asking for deadlines.

If anyone wants to become a student leader I think they should go for it. Join a club and get involved. Work your way up into becoming the leader or person you were always meant to be. It is a hard journey, but a rewarding one.

Both Bennett and Ellis are fine examples of student leaders because they work tirelessly to make sure that everyone they work with is on track and not overloaded. I hope that every student on this campus gets the chance to see what they have done this year.

DEMON DEBATES

KEATOR POLEMAN
NSU doesn't offer high-quality education

I have met many great professors here at Northwestern State, and I will not bash the efforts that teachers put into their work. However, I feel that the university does not provide an adequate selection of programs to choose from.

For example, the only way for prospective students to have political science classes is through the Scholars' College, and the CAPA department lacks any type of courses focused on film. Even the graduate programs lack a diversified selection.

Our school rightfully prides itself on its Education and Nursing courses, but there are so many other fields we could branch out on. If we diversify the types of programs we offer, than even more students would want to come here and we could grow more than we previously had.

NSU could also enlarge other programs, like the Culinary Arts and Computer Information Systems. The foreign language options should also be expanded.

Obviously funding for different programs is a big factor, and I understand that. However, I feel that the university should make it a priority to create other programs on campus.

Another measure I feel NSU should take is the combination of Scholars' College with the regular university system. NSU has segregated us between two separate curriculums. Scholars' is its own separate entity within NSU. Why should students have to deal with two separate academic systems at the same university?

All-in-all, NSU is not a bad school. But it could be a lot better.

LARA SCHALES
NSU does offer high-quality education

Northwestern State offers high-quality education to those who are actively willingly to go beyond their educational limits and dedicate themselves to working hard and doing the best they can. NSU's programs are positively influential for all students who may be struggling to find their passion in life.

The courses offered may be demanding and time-consuming, but they lead to better opportunities before and after graduation. As an Education major, I chose NSU because we have the best program in the state for Elementary Education. I believe that the education over-all could be improved, but only because times change and enrollment is always increasing.

I'm involved with the Student Government Association, Circle K International, the Catholic Student Organization and currently trying to be a Freshman Connector, all while balancing my school work. Sometimes I'm scared I will fall behind, but my teachers are always ready to work with me so I can get everything done.

You don't have to be as involved as I am to ask for help when you feel behind—just ask the teacher and they will give you extensions and are willing to help in any way they can. My point is: the more you do to further your education, the more you realize how ready you are for the real world. A student just can't go through the courses and expect the best when they aren't doing their best. The same is true not just in the College of Education but in every department here at NSU.

Lady Demons play last home game, look to enter conference tournament

Matthew Craig
Reporter



April Ficarrotta, #18. Nicole Henry, #16. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

The Northwestern State Lady Demons (10-8 overall, 4-6 in the Southland Conference) are currently riding a three-game winning streak going into their last week of the regular season after beating Southeastern Louisiana (6-6-4 overall, 3-4-3 in the Southland Conference) 1-0 on Oct. 19 and Nicholls (3-14 overall, 1-9 in the Southland Conference) 3-2 on Oct. 21 in double overtime on Senior Night.

"I wanted to be sad because it is my last home game, but I just can't be," senior middle fielder April Ficarrotta said. "All the girls deserved this. We worked so hard."

The Lady Demons scored two goals in the first three minutes of the game against Nicholls, and Ficarrotta was behind one of those points. She has scored the first goal in two of the last three games.

"I just think something we struggle with in the beginning of the year was setting the tone straight off the bat," said Ficarrotta. "So, it was really good for us to show that we can go out there and set the tone right away and get them on their heels."

Freshmen middle fielder Kaylee Dominy scored the winning goal in double overtime on a free kick to give the Lady Demons the win against Nicholls.

"As soon as Brittney got foul I said this is mine, I know it and I felt it," said Dominy. She said she was extremely confident and knew all the practice they put in would pay off in this moment. "I was extremely comfortable. We work on them a lot in practice."

Co-Head Coach Jess Jobe was proud of Dominy for stepping up with a lot of pressure on her and and executing the free kick to help give NSU the win.

"We control our own density and that is what this game [will] allow us the opportunity to do," Jobe said. "If we go perform on Friday and take care of business, then we don't have to wait and see what the other results are and hope and cross our fingers that we get in. But certainly, without these points today it would've put a lot of pressure on us going into the last weekend knowing it would've been an absolute must-win."

After picking up both games this past week, the Lady Demons put themselves in a good position to make the Southland Conference tournament. Eight total teams will get into the tournament, and they are currently in the seventh spot with only one game reminding. The Southland Conference tournament starts on Oct. 31 in Beaumont, Texas.

The Lady Demons missed the tournament last year after finishing 11th in the conference and a 6-12 overall record.

The team is heading to Conway, Arkansas, to finish out the regular season, taking on Central Arkansas on Oct. 26.

15th-ranked UCA hits Demons with big plays, holds NSU in check

Doug Ireland
Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director



D'ronnie Littleton, #2. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

The degree of difficulty facing Northwestern State was steep enough on its own while visiting 15th-ranked Central Arkansas on Saturday night.

Add in personnel losses due to injuries and concussions before, and during the game, and it got much tougher for the Demons.

UCA asserted its advantages up front on both sides of the ball to steadily take command by halftime, and kept NSU at bay afterward in a 38-17 Southland Conference football decision at Estes Field.

The Demons dropped their fourth straight, and third in a row to a top 15-ranked FCS opponent, slipping to 2-5 overall and 1-4 in the Southland Conference.

The Bears rose to 5-2 overall and jumped into a share of the lead in the Southland with a 4-1 league mark, posting 325 yards while powering to a 28-10 halftime lead. They finished with an even 500, 278 in the air on just 12 completions, a hefty 23.2 per reception.

Both teams played their third-team quarterbacks. For UCA it was by design, as redshirt freshman Luke Hales had stepped in three games ago. For NSU, true sophomore Kaleb Fletcher got his first action of 2018 by necessity.

Demons' starter Shelton Eppler was unavailable, back home benched by a concussion sustained in last Saturday's 42-28 loss to then-14th-ranked Sam Houston State. NSU played that game without No. 2 passer Clay Holgorsen, out with a concussion sustained a week earlier in a 28-10 loss to No. 12 Nicholls. Holgorsen was cleared to play at UCA, but managed only 15 snaps before returning to the sideline.

That was the focal challenge among numerous ones sending reserves into action, but it was UCA's control of the line of scrimmage, ability to break big plays and execution on third down that were decisive. NSU coach Brad Laird dismissed the personnel issues but focused on other decisive factors.

"It's the seventh game. Every team has injuries. We've got to get the guys on the field to play better than we did tonight," he said. "Give UCA credit, they're a good football team and they played very well. Our guys played with tremendous effort for 60 minutes, but we didn't win third down, and we gave up too many big plays while not converting on third down ourselves."

The Bears went 8 of 15 on third down, to a season-worst 2 of 14 for NSU. The Demons started their fifth different offensive line combination in as many weeks and netted just 32 yards on the ground, while getting 232 upstairs, with Fletcher going 16 of 29 for 187 yards.

He scampered seven yards on the first snap for a score after redshirt freshman end Rashuad Powell forced a fumble that sophomore tackle Damien Thompson recovered just before halftime. Fletcher fired a 53-yard strike for NSU's other TD, with Jaylen Watson making the grab on a post route and dancing by two defenders with just 39 seconds remaining.

"Kaleb got more comfortable as the game went on," said Laird. "When you haven't taken a live rep in a game this year, and you're going against a top-15 team on the road, it might take some time, but he settled down and competed and made some plays."

Said Fletcher: "It took a couple series to get rid of the jitters. I knew all week I was going to get some snaps, but the way it worked out, I got a lot more plays than we expected."

UCA erupted for seven first-half explosive plays over 20 yards, totaling 240 yards, while bolting to leads of 21-0 and 28-3. Hales threw for scores of 31, 53, 15 and 25 yards in the first two quarters.

The Demons were scoreless and punted each time while getting into the Bears' side of the field, but no closer than the 38, on three of their first four possessions. NSU's first points came on a 35-yard Austyn Fendrick field goal following a tip and interception at the UCA 20 by Ryan Reed midway through the second quarter.

The Bears drove 71 yards to make it 35-10 on their first series after halftime, with Hales finding halfback Carlos Blackman for a 25-yard score, and NSU was unable to threaten until the game's closing moments.

"We've been through a tough stretch and we have kept competing," said Laird. "Disappointed, frustrated, you betcha, we are. But we are still fighting and we are going to get energy from all the homecoming activities next week, and we'll come out next Saturday night in Turpin Stadium determined to get it going our way."

NSU will play Houston Baptist (1-6, 0-5), a 42-14 home-field loser to Stephen F. Austin, in the Demons' homecoming contest at 6 next Saturday.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: APRIL TROWBRIDGE

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

While it may take years for people to find their passion, it only took three years for April Trowbridge to figure out hers.

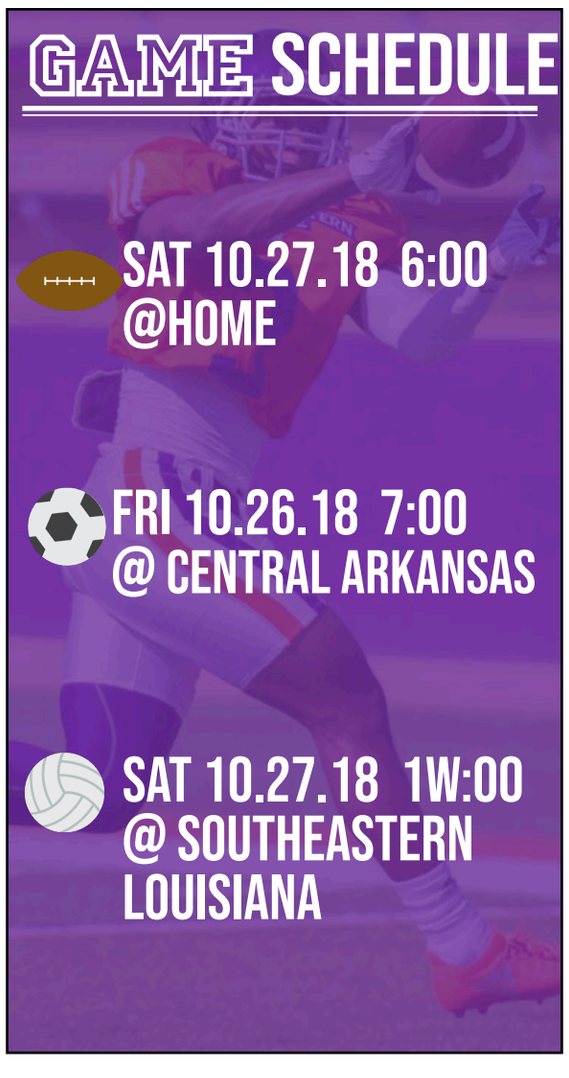
Trowbridge hails from Halifax, the provincial capital of Nova Scotia, Canada. She graduated from Halifax West High School, where she set a provincial record of 25 goals in 11 games during regular season play, and led her team to three provincial championships.

Upon graduating high school, she spent one year playing at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, where she also played on Nova Scotia's team in the Canada Games, leading them to a fourth-place finish nationally. One of the youngest players at the senior women's level in the Canadian National team program, she then decided to transfer to Northwestern State University.

Trowbridge made an immediate impact as soon as she started in Natchitoches, achieving Southland Conference Newcomer of the Year as a sophomore forward. She became a driving force behind the success of the soccer program, with her most memorable moment competing with the Lady Demons in the Southland Conference Tournament in 2016.

As far as the future goes, Trowbridge has her eyes set on another appearance in the Southland Conference tournament for the 2018 season. With a season record of 8-8, the Lady Demons are still in contention for tournament competition, which could lead to a coveted Conference Championship.

A senior majoring in Psychology, she plans on pursuing a graduate degree in Clinical Psychology, with the goal of working in military psychology.



the CURRENTsauce

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Happy Halloween from the Current Sauce!

We talked to the two prominent candidates for Louisiana's 3rd U.S. congressional district. Here's what they said.



Mike Johnson

Q: Why did you decide to run for office?

A: I chose to run for office because I was deeply concerned about the trajectory of our nation, and I felt I had a moral obligation to do what I could to change it. I was worried about the future we were leaving behind for our children and grandchildren – the insurmountable debt, the erosion of our core principles and, at times, the complete disregard for the rule of law.

Q: What is the biggest issue facing our district?

A: No matter where I go across Louisiana's Fourth District, I hear from small business owners about the troubles they have faced in building their businesses. A lot of that has improved during this Congress, since we passed the largest tax reform package in more than 30 years. But in addition, we worked tirelessly to remove excessive government regulation that was hindering our businesses. We must continue to cut government red tape and allow the American people to operate and grow their businesses without interference from Washington bureaucrats.

Q: What are your legislative priorities?

A: While we have been incredibly successful in removing excessive federal regulations, boosting our economy and getting a record number of Americans back to work, there is still a lot of work to do. We must secure our borders and protect national security. We have to put an end to the disaster that is Obamacare and implement a plan that puts patients and their doctors back in control of their healthcare – not Washington bureaucrats. And we must continue to fight for pro-life policies and stop the taxpayer funding of abortion

Q: We live in a very polarized time. What are you doing to bridge the divide in our country's politics

A: Though we remain the freest, most powerful and most prosperous nation in all the world, this increasing polarization and coarsening of our culture is a legitimate threat to our republic. This is a downward spiral that must be stopped. Thankfully, hope remains that we can do just that. Nearly 150 members – including top leaders and luminaries from both sides of the aisle – have signed on to a document I created at the beginning of my time in Congress titled the Commitment to Civility. This statement of principles summarizes the crisis we are facing and memorializes our individual promises to, among other things, "show proper respect to one another and all others, encourage productive dialogue, and model civility in our public and private actions."

This idea has taken off and become a real force in the Congress. We have since introduced a resolution to mark July 12 as the National Day of Civility. This date corresponds with Matthew 7:12 and the biblical admonition to follow "the Golden Rule." In addition, Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fl.) and I created the Congressional Honor and Civility Caucus to uphold and promote the ideals of civility and statesmanship and to restore trust and confidence in America's political institutions.



Ryan Trundle

Q: Why did you decide to run for office?

A: Because we need a congress that works for all of us, not just the 1%. Republicans are doing everything they can to end Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, CHIPs, the Environmental Protection Agency, consumer protections, the Affordable Care Act and basically anything that actually helps people. Children are being torn from their mothers and held in tent camps. Trade wars will cost our farmers and manufacturers billions of dollars they can't afford to lose. Our most vulnerable and in need of help are being pushed aside to give trillion-dollar tax cuts to the wealthy. We need people in Congress to care more about the people they represent than the corporations that fill their pockets.

Q: What is the biggest issue facing our district?

A: I have been all over our district talking to people and most everyone agrees on many important issues. The most important is the need to raise the wage. 78% of people in our district are living paycheck to paycheck, up from 60% two years ago. 30% are in poverty. Raising the minimum wage to a living wage not only raises everyone's paycheck—it also greatly helps businesses and our towns.

Q: What are your legislative priorities?

A: We must save and expand Social Security. Bankruptcy for seniors has surged this year as prices keep growing, but their checks aren't.

People also need an affordable health insurance option like Medicare for All. With skyrocketing insurance rates and ever rising deductibles, working families can't afford it anymore.

We must have a level playing field where everyone has an equal chance at a job where equal work demands equal pay. Education is another key to opportunity which is why we need to make public colleges and trade schools tuition free.

We must take care of those protecting us. There are over a million veterans in poverty and 40% of active-duty military families qualify for food assistance. With a $770-billion military budget, larger than the next 10 countries combined, there is no reason not to pay our military men and women a living wage or take care of our veterans.

We must protect people from unethical companies poisoning the air we breathe, the water we drink and fish in and the ground that grows our food.

Q: We live in a very polarized time. What are you doing to bridge the divide in our country's politics right now?

A: A congressman must represent all the people in their district, so I have been all over ours talking to people from every party, race, gender, orientation and religion. When you talk to regular people about the issues they face, you realize we are much more alike than we are different. It is millionaire career politicians on both sides that are deliberately causing tension between both parties because that is how they win elections. We need to elect regular working people who will fight for the people, not the big corporations filling campaign coffers.

Communications department to host journalism event Friday

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

Northwestern State University's journalism department is hosting its 45th Journalism Day, otherwise known as 'J-Day', on Friday, Nov. 2.

"J-Day was created to discuss current practices in the media industry to let students have the first exploration about what would be expected of them when they first start a job or go into to college," said Dr. Paula Furr, head of the journalism department.

Besides bringing in hundreds of potential NSU students, the day will feature prominent alumni speakers, such as NSU President Chris Maggio and ULS President Dr. Jim Henderson. Competitions featured that day will involve hands-on events such as photography, newswriting and broadcast.

J-Day offers its attendees an opportunity to participate in these activities along with lectures from guest speakers to share their stories.

"J-Day shows what getting a degree in communications can mean [for them]," said Savannah Stevens, a junior Communications major at NSU.

J-Day is meant to push the philosophy that journalism is the foundation for a fair and just democracy.

"It's fundamental to our democracy," Furr said. "It's why the founders made [freedom of the press] the first amendment."

"J-Day sealed the deal for my choice to go to NSU, and helped me choose Mass Communications as my major," said freshman Zoe Tapp.

The half-day event brings together NSU students and high schoolers to explore the different aspects and possibilities of journalism and communications, and what majoring in them entails.

"I love at the end when we do awards, [they] get so excited and we recognize their high school advisors," Furr said. "For all of us, we all learn from someone and it's nice to see the respect and enthusiasm students have for their teachers."

Ask Vic

Q My best friend and I have been super close since our freshman year, but now I feel like she's turning into someone toxic. I want to be there for her, but she puts me down a lot, and says it's because she is just offering constructive criticism. I don't like it at all, but anytime I say something about it, she just gets defensive and denies all of it. I don't want to be a bad friend, but she is emotionally draining me. What should I do?

A Just like any other issue, the first bit of advice: Communication is key. She may not realize what she's doing is destructive to you and your mental health. She may truly believe she's being a good friend to you by trying to make you a better person. Just remind her that that isn't her responsibility. You're a big kid now—you can take care of yourself.

If she still continues to treat you like this, and you don't want to cut her off completely, then shift your perspective. Look at it as: "I am being a good friend by being there for her, but I don't need to invest my time, energy, and emotions into her drama."

Don't feel obligated to talk or hang out with her if you don't want to. Learn to say "no." Don't completely ghost or ignore her, but by being there for her when she needs you, but not necessarily investing all your time and energy with her all the time, you can have a chance to breathe.

However, if she actively puts you down on a regular basis and makes you feel horrible about yourself, feel free to let her know how you feel, and cut her off if need be. If she does nothing but criticize you with malicious intentions, you don't need to be there. Communicate first. Act second. She needs to know the effect she is having on other people.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!
@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

The Legend of Isabella

This article was originally published in the NSU Student Handbook.

Isabella was a young French maiden, renowned for her beauty, who once lived in the original Bullard mansion after the Bullards were gone. The young lady had many suitors but preferred the company of a young man from the East, sent to Louisiana on business. They fell in love and were to be married. Shortly before the wedding date arrived the young man was killed in a duel. Legend has it that the duel concerned a dispute over another woman.

Isabella, overcome by grief became a nun and the French maiden's beauty wasted away through constant mourning of her intended. Everyone believed she had gone mad from grief and mourning. One stormy night she ended her mourning by plunging a dagger into her heart. Soon after, she was found dead in her room, with a bloody handprint on the wall.

Her spirit roamed Bullard mansion until it was torn down. Since then she has roamed various buildings on campus. She lived in East Hall until it was torn down in 1932. This was evident by the eyewitness accounts of girls who lived in East. From East Hall, Isabella's spirit moved to the Music Hall and resided there until 1946 then this building was also torn down. Just before the Music Hall was dismantled, a group of young men, dressed in sheets, coaxed Isabella from the doomed building.

From there she wandered aimlessly around campus from building to building (including East Varnado) for almost three years, until, becoming weary, she chose Caldwell Hall as her new residence. Speculation has it that Caldwell was chosen because of its close proximity to the original Bullard dwelling. According to newspaper articles the official date of the move was January 15, 1949. Reportedly a letter from the ghost was found on the steps of Caldwell along with a few drops of blood.

Isabella's present residence is the Old Women's Gym (presently the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training) located on College Avenue beside Varnado Hall. When Caldwell Hall burned in October 1982, a group of 750 students gathered and performed a ceremony on Halloween night that aided Isabella in her transition to her present location.



What's on a ballot? A guide

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

For the Nov. 6 election, voters have many options to choose from. Those on the ballot for school board in district 6 are: "Reba" Phelps, and Elvin L. Shields.

The candidates for U.S. Representative of the 4 Congressional District are incumbent Mike Johnson (R), Ryan Trundle (D) and Mark David Halverson (I).

For Secretary of State, the candidates include Julie Stokes, Matthew Moreau, Thomas Kennedy III, A.G. Crowe, Kyle Ardoin, Heather Cloud, Rene Free, "Rick" Edmonds and "Gwen" Collins-Greenup.

There are six amendments to be voted on also. If voted for, one amendment would require a unanimous jury decision on noncapital felony cases.

The current law requires only 10 out of 12 jurors to issue a verdict.

Another amendment would prohibit felons from serving in public office until five years after completing their sentence. The law currently allows felons to serve after completing their sentence.

If voted for, one amendment would remove the right of state police to use money from the Transportation Trust Fund for traffic control purposes.

One amendment could extend eligibility for certain special property tax treatments to property held in trust.

Voters can also decide whether a political subdivision can donate the use of public equipment and personnel to another.

Another amendment may require a four year phase-in of tax liability for homes subject to the homestead exemption when a reappraisal increases assessments by more than 50 percent.

Natchitoches residents will also vote on whether or not to allow fantasy sports to be played inside the parish.

Good at writing? Interested in journalism?

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: DAESHON GORDON

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

On Sunday, Oct. 21, the Northwestern State Demon community was struck with sudden tragedy. Daeshon Gordon, 22, former LSU two-time All American and NSU record holder, passed away abruptly from unknown causes.

A Jamaican native, Gordon graduated from Northeast High School in Miami in 2014 as one of the premier dual hurdlers in the nation. She competed at the 2014 Jamaican Junior Championships, and left that experience the No. 1 400-meter hurdler in the U.S., at the time.

Her international competition experience continued with an appearance at the 2015 JAAA National Senior Championships, where she set a Jamaican national junior record in the 100-meter hurdles. She followed up that performance with a bronze medal podium finish at the 2015 Pan American Junior Games in the 100-meter hurdles.

Gordon finished her athletic experience at LSU after garnering two All-American honors and achieving a spot-on LSU's all-time list in multiple events.

Upon her arrival at NSU, she made an immediate impact to the growing success of the track and field team. During her first season as a Lady Demon, she became the 2017 SLC Indoor Champion in the 60-meter hurdles. Teamed with Tamara Style, Natashia Jackson, and De'Shalyn Jones, she helped set a school record in the 4x200 meter relay (1:35.70) and set personal records that place her on Lady Demon all-time lists.

"Daeshon was very energetic, very bubbly, and infectious smile. She was always a joy to be around. She was very considerate. She had a huge heart, and was just an awesome, awesome girl," said Mike Heimerman, head track and field coach at NSU.

Following the 2017 season, Gordon was named the 2017 SLC Indoor Track and Field Newcomer of the Year, and was placed on the 2017 LSWA All-Louisiana Track and Field Team in the 4x400 meter relay.

Gordon continued to repeat excellence across the board in the 2018 seasons, becoming the SLC Indoor champion again in the 60-meter hurdles and the SLC Outdoor champion in both the 400 meter hurdles and 4x100 meter relay.

"She took on a lot of roles for someone who was already an All-American before she got here," said Adam Pennington, associate head track and field coach. "She always stayed late at practice to help coach walk-on's and the kids who maybe didn't travel as much. That's just the type of athlete that she was."

Gordon was working on finishing her degree in Communications, and aspired to become a teacher. She would have been a first-generation college graduate, and NSU President Chris Maggio has said that he is working on awarding Gordon a post-humous degree.

She touched the lives of many athletes, both internationally and around the U.S. As a former Northwestern State track athlete, my heart goes out to everyone affected by her death, and my prayers go with her team, friends and family. We, the Current Sauce, stand with the rest of the Demon community in mourning her untimely death.

Fly high, Daeshon.

CAPA launches play focusing on 'Hamlet' characters

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

The theatre department at Creative and Performing Arts is set to premier their latest show, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" by Tom Stoppard is loosely based on William Shakespeare's "Hamlet." The play is from the point of view of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Pia Wyatt, the play's director, said the play itself is easy to understand for the common viewer.

"Shakespeare gets a bad name because his stuff is hard to understand, but it's also because the actor doesn't know what he's saying," Wyatt said. "These actors know what they are saying, and so the common viewer will have no problem understanding whatsoever."

Additionally, anyone who is familiar with the story of "Hamlet" will be able to follow the parallels between it and the play.

Wyatt said she has been wanting to do this show for years because she feels that reading is a dying sport.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" will stay true to its original Elizabethan theme.

The play is being put together by students, and Wyatt said it is fantastic for the department to rely heavily on students. She said, "We trust our students so much to be able to do these shows."

Elizabeth Guy, the play's costume designer, said she used designs from the Elizabethan, Cavalier, Jacobean and Renaissance eras for the costumes.

"My research was very thorough," Guy said. "I've looked at a ton of different time periods and sticking with the eras I'm going for. I don't want to go too late or too early and want to stick in that 'chunk' of time eras."

The costume shop has a massive variety of clothing from different time periods and allowed Guy to reference and personalize costumes for the show. Each costume has been modified in a way that makes it special to the show.

"It's a lot of work, and when we get to this point in any production, it's how everyone is feeling. Especially when the finish line is right there," Wyatt said. She said the play will stimulate your brain and make you question the world.

Spots remain open for Fall Super 60 Showcase

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director

Spots remain available for Northwestern State's Fall Super 60 Showcase, the lone camp the Demons will host this fall.

The Nov. 11 camp at Brown-Stroud Field includes a pro-style workout in the morning followed by games in the afternoon. Players will run a 60-yard dash, throw from infield and outfield positions and take batting practice on the field. Radar readings for each player's throws will be given to the players.

Cost for the one-day event is $150 for position players and $100 for pitchers. Players who want to both pitch and play a position during the games must sign up for both. The camp will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Campers need to bring their own equipment, including a glove, bat, batting gloves, batting helmet, running shoes or turf shoes and anything else they feel necessary. Please mark the camper's name on all items.

Log onto www.collegebaseballcamps.com/demons to sign up or for more information on the camp.

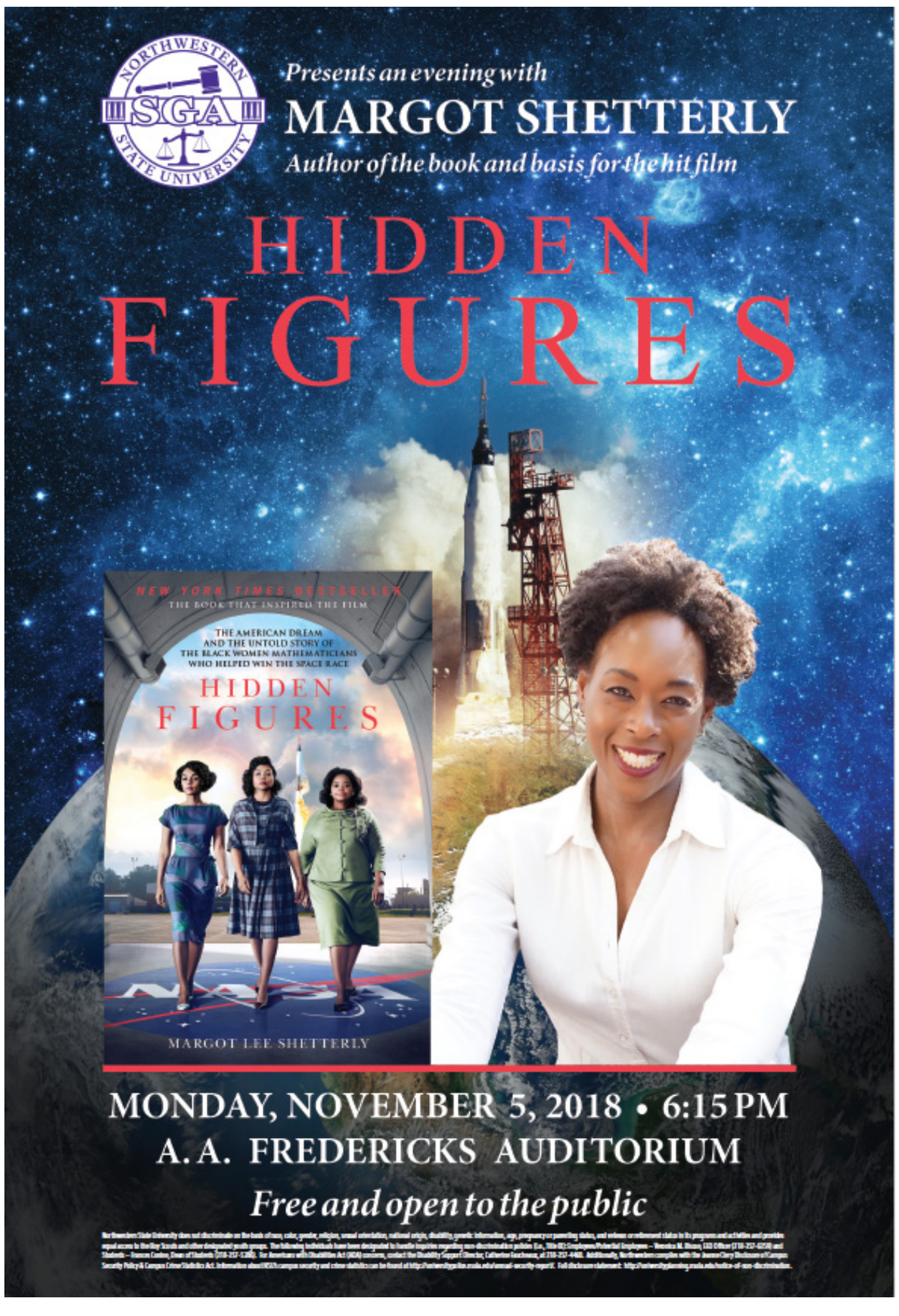
THE CURRENT SAUCE
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Eyes of Argus:

Mais sha, Don't Go Down to the Bayou

Skylar Guidrdoz

Eyes rolled up
black and yellow—
hazel shifting
with deceptive
innocence.
Blinking time
colors changed
olive
slipping into silted waters
muddy murkiness.
Teeth sharpened on bone and limbs
stretch
Curved taloned toes imprinted
red clouds—
swirl on a shifting sparkling sky
eyes still innocent.
Swim with them?
I did—
Absorbed mud and blood
searched for lost hope
as serrated traps
refused
to snap.



The more hugs you give, the longer you live



Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Hugs make you healthier and happier. As I was scrolling mindlessly through social media one day, I came across an article on Healthline.com: "What Are the Benefits of Hugging?" It explained that studies show humans need four hugs a day for survival and 12 hugs for growth.

For me, hugs are a form of communication. You can express different kinds of emotion with just a hug. The article says that frequent hugs with the people close to you can have helpful effects on both your brain and body. This is true because the tighter the hug, the better I feel.

I know there are people who claim to not want physical contact and I can respect that. Those people don't have to list reasons as to why they don't want this form of contact. I hope that whenever they do want a hug that I'm able to give them one because everyone needs a hug.

I think people who push people away really are screaming for someone to remain close to them. The people that smile the brightest might be holding back tears and the students who are hard on themselves because of their grades might actually be struggling.

I don't know that for sure—I might never know unless I ask but people don't usually open up to strangers. I don't know the story of every student on this campus, that's why I smile at everyone I pass. I hope that anyone who needs it has a better day than they did before.

Hugs help reduce your fears and pain, the studies in the article describe that when someone gives out a hug it decreases anxiety and sometimes increases self-esteem. This is why you want to hug or hold someone's hand it makes you feel better.

Hugging is a form of intimacy. Someone is giving you permission to enter their space and step out of their boundaries.

I like to think that hugging is an important step when gaining someone's trust because I'm allowing myself to be held and be vulnerable, even if it's just for a brief moment.

This is why hugs mean so much to me and it's why I love them so much. I hope to hug as many people as I can in my lifetime.

Quote of the Week

"Every day is Halloween, isn't it? For some of us." - Tim Burton



"A photo of Vic the Demon I took during the ULS Day at the Capitol made it onto the front page of The Current Sauce," Boudreaux says. "From then on, I knew I wanted to be a part of NSU's Student Media." *Photo by Christian Boudreaux.*

Life behind the lens: Why I love NSU student media

Christian Boudreaux
Contributing Writer

I joined the Potpourri staff at the beginning of this past summer, and it has been one of the most fulfilling decisions I've ever made. I really got interested in photography in the spring of 2017, when I took an introductory class at Louisiana State University of Alexandria.

That May, I saved up enough to buy a used Nikon DSLR, and I began to snap pictures. I happened to bring my camera up with me to Natchitoches when I transferred that summer and I kept taking photos in my spare time. It wasn't until I took my Photography II class where I slowly began to better my skills.

I never thought I would work as a photographer until April 2018. That was when a friend of mine got a photo of Vic the Demon I took during the ULS Day at the Capitol made it onto the front page of that week's issue of The Current Sauce. From then on, I knew I wanted to be a part of NSU's Student Media. I applied for the Potpourri and was hired shortly thereafter. Days before the semester began, I was offered a new job: lead photographer. And I took it.

Since this semester started, I've gone to more events around campus that I wouldn't have been interested in if not for the yearbook. The two most fun events that come to mind were the two concerts I shot: The First Night Concert on Move-In Day and the recent Attack of the Bands event. If I didn't have to go cover those events, I likely would have never been interested in attending them.

Now, I'm excited to cover this year's day-long Demonfest, an event I didn't attend last year, because I thought it would've been boring or energy-draining. I've shot the Lady of the Bracelet pageant, N-Side View Day, and the Nicholl's State football game, along with some more events I can't remember. Those were all events I would not have attended if not for my position.

I bring all of this up because when I first transferred to NSU last fall as a junior, I almost felt like an outcast. I didn't know where my place was here, especially since I was almost completely detached from the social events at LSUA. A year later, I feel like I'm wanted and accepted. Everywhere I go, I see the faces of people that show up in my pictures. And my heart warms up when someone tells me "I can't wait to be in the yearbook" whenever I ask for a picture.

There's one last story I want to tell. When I first transferred to NSU, my dad, an NSU alumnus from the mid-80s who knew Dr. Maggio, asked if we could make a stop at the Watson Library so that we could see the old yearbooks. I don't know how often that happens with students here, but I remembered that story while writing this and thought, "If I ever have kids that attend this school, would I do the same with them?"

It was at that moment when I realized how important the Potpourri is to both current and future students. You see, social media is an incredible tool at our disposal, not just for recreational use but for documenting our lives through visual media. And while I think that sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are great for keeping those moments with you forever, there's something special about a big book filled with photos of the events from a certain time and place.

Seeing my photos being put into those pages makes me both excited and nervous for the same reason. My photos will be remembered for years, even decades to come. As I say all this, I realize that I have the easiest job at the Potpourri.

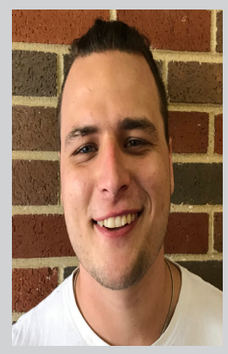
My Editor-in-Chief, the writers, designers and fellow photographers have the much tougher roles to fulfill, but I'm proud to be working alongside them, and proud to be a part of something that I think is going to last a long time.

NSYOU: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIE?



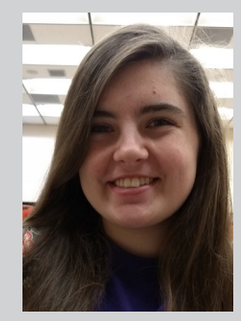
Sydnee Haag
Business Admin
Senior

Wrong Turn



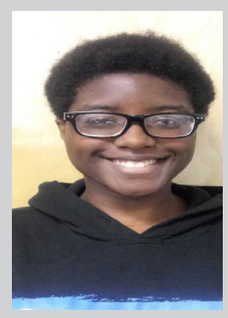
Landon Wright
Communications
Senior

Ed, Edd, & Eddy Halloween Special



Kaitlin Hatten
Elementary Education
Sophomore

Hocus Pocus



Sheridan Douglas
Secondary Education
Sophomore

Mostly Ghostly

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You're never alone

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

As the seasons change and the leaves fall, the mood of the Earths inhabitants often change as well. While seasonal mood changes are relatively normal, mood disorders and depression affect around 322 million people globally year-round, according to a study done by the World Health Organization.

In 1999, the U.S. Surgeon General named stigma as "perhaps the biggest barrier to mental health care; this stigma manifests particularly in a phenomenon known as social distancing, whereby people with mental illness are more isolated from others."

A social stigma is the discrimination against a person based on perceivable social characteristics that serve to distinguish them from other members of society. There is a stigma surrounding mental health in our society, and it leads to many people feeling more alone than they ever should.

Struggles with mental health often lead to struggles with substance abuse, and from there, can spiral an individual's life out of control. Depression affects every aspect of a person's life, and should be taken seriously. Check on your friends regularly, and treat those you love with care. You never know what someone is going through.

Northwestern State University prides itself on having a 24-hour crisis service. Call the office of Counseling Services at (318)357-5621 or come by the office in room 305 of the Student Union during University operation hours to speak to someone. If you need to speak to someone after office hours, call the University Police at (318)357-5431 and a counselor will be contacted for you.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). In a world ever-changing, always remember – you're never alone.



A.A. Fredricks is one of the locations set to be renovated. *Photo by Victoria Perkins.*

Renovations to come to Northwestern's campus

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

Two of the most popular spots on campus are designated to be renovated in the near future: A.A Fredricks, and what's known as "The Alley", the hallway leading from the Student Union to The Grill. The A.A Fredricks renovations are set to take place sometime after the Christmas Gala, due to the large population of students that frequent the building during the holiday season.

"This will be a complete facelift of the Auditorium," said Dale Wohlez, the director of the physical plant. The plans include replacing ceiling tile, adding paint and laying down new flooring. Different light fixtures, accompanied by fresh trim, is set to give the auditorium a new look.

"The idea for the new look is for it to feel like an upgrade," said Wohlez. "I feel like it will become a showcase hall for the whole university, and for all of the functions held in the building."

The renovations for the Alley, however, have yet to be determined.

"[In Vics] the kitchen has leakage issues. Our first step is to repair those leaks," said Francis Conine, the Dean of Students. The ideas for the Alley that are being considered are all about the students.

"I just want it to be a nice place for students and the community," said Conine. "A popular idea being tossed around is to create it into a multi-purpose space for the students. Renovating the bathrooms and the ballroom are some other areas that are being looked into as well."

The budgets for both projects have not been determined yet, but both projects are set to be completed as soon as possible.

POLICE BLOTTER

10-23-18
Disturbance

10-24-18
Hit and Run - University Columns Parking

10-28-18
Hit and Run - Org Row Parking

10-30-18
Fight - University Columns

10-30-18
Harassing Phone calls - Campus

10-31-18
Burglary - Feild House

11-02-18
Hit and Run - University Columns Parking

11-02-18
Disturbance - Watson Library

11-02-18
Assault (Verbal) /Theft - Campus



NSU volunteers load chairs for new cafe. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Columns Cafe: coming soon

Leah Jackson
Director of Public Information and Media Relations

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University's Hospitality Management and Tourism program will debut the Columns Café Tuesday, Nov. 13. The Columns Café will be open once each month offering a four-course meal prepared by NSU culinary arts students.

The debut menu includes sweet potato and andouille sausage soup, autumn apple salad with maple vinaigrette, mustard-roasted pork loin with squash polenta and chestnut mascarpone with tuile. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. at a cost of $40. Seating is limited and will be directed so that all seats are filled.

Guests can purchase tickets to reserve their spot online through the NSU Foundation by visiting northwesternalumni.com or by calling HMT Professor Landon Amberg at (138) 357-5072. The Columns Café is located on the second floor of the Family and Consumer Sciences Building in the heart of the NSU campus.

HMT faculty said they have been planning the café about two years, benchmarking similar endeavors at other schools, but tailored to NSU's logistics and location, Amberg said. The Columns Café is student-run with seasonal, locally-sourced meals prepared in the culinary arts lab and served by students.

The HMT program received support from Wings Over Natchitoches, an event the students catered, as well as alumni and industry partners to make the Columns Café possible.

"This is a great opportunity for our students," Amberg said. "We already cater the alumni tailgate parties and other events on campus and this takes the classroom into the real world."

"We center everything around experiential learning," added HMT Professor Valerie Salter. "The food service industry is begging for qualified employees across the nation and around the world. This gives our students culinary experience and operational experience."

Buy 2019, all the dates for the Columns Cafe will be listed on the HMT website, so patrons can purchase tickets for the date they want to attend. More information is available at hmt.nsula.edu.

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NSU textbooks will become increasingly cheaper over the next few semesters. *Photo by Victoria Perkins.*

ULS makes books cost-friendly

Leanna Coy
Reporter

In order to combat the rising cost of education, the University of Louisiana System is trying to make textbooks more cost-friendly for students. ULS President Jim Henderson said that an initiative has been launched across the system to reduce textbook expenses.

"The rising cost of college has been a concern for all of us," Henderson said. He added that the UL System is always looking for ways to reduce costs to studentsww.

Jeannine Kahn, UL System provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said the initiative will take place over the course of the next three years. "Campuses will be asked to provide an implementation plan that clearly identifies ways in which the student burden related to textbook costs can be reduced, with yearly reports on progress," Kahn said.

Northwestern State University is currently working to develop its plan regarding the cost of textbooks and other course materials.

"Currently, 50 percent of Northwestern courses use an e-textbook option, so we may increase the use of this option, as well as use more open educational resources," said Dr. Vickie Gentry, vice president of academic affairs. "The universities goal is to make the average cost of course materials be $75 or less."

‘Rocky Horror’ does it again

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

Like all of the other brave souls that went to see “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” on Sunday, I was filled with antici...pation. The play, put on by the Student Theatre Organization, was one of the most comically risqué performances I’ve ever seen.

Those familiar with “Rocky Horror” will understand the almost ritualistic commentary by the audience. Barely a scene went by without someone yelling out some familiar trope.

One of the most exciting parts of the play wasn’t even an actual part of the performance. Prior to taking their seats, audience members were asked whether they would like to have the letter “V” written on their forehead with lipstick. The symbol would mark them as “virgins” to the play.

The costumes in the production were amazing. I loved the designs for all of the characters.

If latex, fishnet stockings and cross dressing aren’t for you, then I’d find another show to watch. Many of the audience members came clad in similar clothes.

You can’t have a proper “Rocky Horror” viewing without guys rocking it out in bodysuits and short shorts.

My only qualm would be the set itself, which is a minimal disappointment. Besides some props, there was nothing else on stage.

A major prop was a screen that had the movie projected on it as the actors performed.

The cast didn’t act out the whole show, however. During multiple scenes the performers would come out and lip sync with the movie.

During intermission, the “virgins” and others were picked to take part in “Rocky Horror” style games. While I wish I could describe all that happened, I don’t think my editor would allow me.

I would like to congratulate the cast and crew that put the performance together. It was well done and stayed true to the “Rocky Horror” style.

If you were unlucky enough to not have seen it, take a chance next year and check it out for yourself. I give this play a perfect five out of five demons.







Members of the Student Theatre Organization act out scenes from the movie on Sunday night in A.A. Frederick’s Auditorium. *Photos by Cassandra Phillips.*

Eyes of Argus:

Editor’s note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university’s poem collection “Argus.” For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

Heart

Julian Guerrero

Yes, it is white, though not with years,
nor is it pale from sudden fears,
though fear has grasped its core most dear,
and seen it fall, from year to year.

Yes, it is cold, though not through frost,
for it has payed the greatest cost:
to dream, and crave, for what loves most,
now destitute, now always lost.

Yes, it is gone, though once here dwelled,
in opulence, before it tell,
from ample grace as I now tell,
below the ground, beneath the dales.

Yes, it is hard, as hardest rock,
and it grew so from every rock,
from every lack of lively luck,
forever lone, forever locked.

And it may seem it crumbles last,
for ail its sorrows weigh it fast,
and ail the sadness of its past
have reached it here, now dead at last.

Yes, it is lost, though not for long,
as it returns here every dawn,
and sings to me its sweetest song:
“Begin again, for life’s not long.”

Magee’s Patio Cafe: a review

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

Magee’s Patio Café, located across the street from campus, is a restaurant I used to visit often. Is it a restaurant designed for tourists and prospective students, or is this a restaurant that the student body should be frequenting more often?

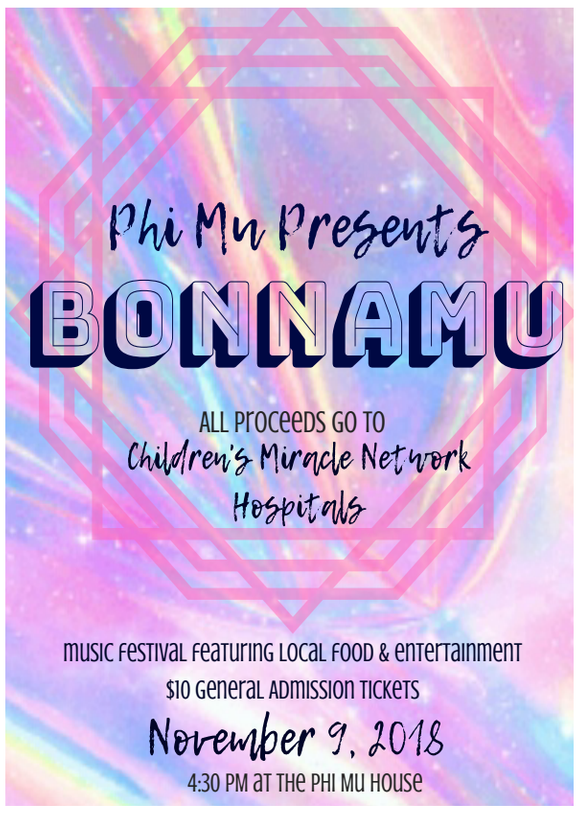
The combination of the inside and outside picnic bench seating, along with the vintage sign, gives off the vibes of a Floridian poolside café. Magee’s is very...particular. At the register, you’ll see a sign stating you are allowed only one refill. The menu is amended simply by using a sharpie.

For this visit, I ordered a Turkey Club Combo. The total for my meal was around thirteen dollars. The price point for fries, a fountain drink, and a sandwich seems almost needlessly high. It hurts my wallet and soul knowing I could get a full meal at Chili’s for nearly the same price.

The Turkey Club, admittedly, was delicious. It was fresh tasting, while also satisfying the deep, glutenous need to stuff my face. It was double stacked with two full layers of meat, cheese and lettuce. The fries were crispy, but definitely not anything special. I think a good fry means you don’t need ketchup, and these were certainly not in that category of fry.

After waiting for what felt like a long time at the register, someone finally offered to give me my one free refill. I would say that the service is fairly hit or miss. There are some people working that will smile and treat you very kindly, but there are others on staff that look as if they are trying to make you disappear with the power of their stare- in the other direction.

During this visit I remembered why I used to eat at Magee’s, but also why I stopped. The food overall is pretty average, but really overpriced. It has a cute atmosphere, fun for sitting around and talking to friends, but if you don’t have the coin, don’t bother.



Castlevania Season 2: An almost perfect Pork Chop

Anthony Rennteria
Reporter

Castlevania is a video game series that I am very fond of. You can imagine my excitement when last year, Netflix released four episodes of an animated series titled “Castlevania,” which is based on the third game in the series, “Dracula’s Curse.” In my opinion, it is one of the best animated shows for adult audiences.

Recently, the newest season has been released, and I can confidently say that Castlevania season two is enjoyable, but misses on a few points, which makes it fall just short of perfect.

The best part about season two is that there are eight episodes instead of four, which combined makes one full season. The three protagonists, Trevor, Sypha and Alucard are still on their way to confront Dracula after the end of season one. Their dialogue and dynamic is entertaining. Their journey leads them underground for a majority of the season, which is a bummer, but it leads to memorable character interactions between the three.

The focus of season two is given to Dracula’s army and the other vampires. I thought that their side of the story was the weakest part of the season. The show sets up new characters, only for them to be forgotten about. More of the bosses and characters from the games are introduced like reoccurring villainess, Carmilla, along with Issac and Hector from Curse of Darkness. It is obvious that the appearance of these characters is only to set up later seasons, even if you aren’t familiar with the games.

The animation is top notch. Everything about the backgrounds, shot composition and digital effects flow consistently, making the show look visually appealing. The fight scenes are especially exciting to watch, due to the attention to detail and perfect incorporation of different animation techniques. The show is also very gory, and they don’t hold back on that. The final episodes of the season are where it shines the most.

Season two of Castlevania was fantastic, but falls just short of perfect. It still gets a strong recommendation from myself, and is worth watching. Netflix has already greenlit a third season, which looks to be setting up the events of Curse of Darkness. I have high expectations for the future of this Netflix series, and hope it can continue being awesome.



Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! I’m concerned about my friend. They seem to be struggling with substance abuse issues, and I don’t know how to approach them with my concerns. What should I do?

A First, find out if your friend is experimenting with drugs, or if they are addicted. Neither option is favorable, but addiction is a whole different ballgame.
Just voicing your concern can be a huge help. Your friend may not be up for conversation, but just knowing they aren’t alone can be comforting. Chances are your friend may have gotten in with “the wrong crowd,” but they don’t want to leave that in fear of being alone. So be there for them. Don’t try and play therapist, but suggest to them that they may need to talk to someone professionally. They may not listen to you or deny that they have a problem, but just remember, it’s up to them to make that choice. You can’t force your friend to do anything they don’t want to do. So, the best thing you can do is stay with them, look out for them, and suggest professional help if needed.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

My journey to my destiny



Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter



I was born in Maiduguri, Borno, in the northern part of Nigeria. The name Maiduguri is derived from an Arabic expression meaning "quenching the thirst." The expression refers to the waters of the nearby river from which travelers would stop and drink.

My father was a very hard-working man. He was not around much during our upbringing. He traveled far away to the southern part of Nigeria to work, and sent us as much money as he could. My mother was a business woman, and she always thought of small things we could do around the house to make money.

The value of education and prayer is something that I understood from a very young age. My parents made it clear to me why these values were important. My father got a promotion and moved us to Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. His main reason being he wanted us to learn English. "The schools there are really good," he would say.

No one liked the decision at the time. We had to leave everything behind and start all over again. However, it is because of this that I got to talk to my uncle, Bukar Ibn-Mohammed, who lived in America.

One evening after school my uncle called and asked about our well-being. My mom called me from outside and handed me the phone.

I remember her being very excited. She told me it was my uncle from America. I had a conversation with him in English and he was impressed. He said to me if I did good in school, he would bring me to America.

After the phone call, I was in shock. I told my mom what my uncle said and I'm sure everyone in the neighborhood could hear her scream in joy.

I was in disbelief. I kept saying there is no way I could go over there, that's it must be too good to be true.

America is an absolute dream to almost everyone in Nigeria.

Because of what my uncle promised me, I started working twice as hard in school, and I graduated at the age of 15.

My uncle kept his promise.

For the first time in my life, I was on an airplane. An old lady sitting next to me on the plane, who noticed my excitement, asked if it was my first time flying.

When I said "yes," she replied and laughed, "I can tell."

I was also scared because I didn't know what to expect; I was going to this land, and my sole purpose was to educate myself and remove my family from poverty.

My grandmother rolled her spiritual dice in front of me and said, "You are going to be a very lucky person." I didn't believe in luck very much. Rather, I believed in destiny.

Feeling lost and afraid, I walked towards the arrival section in the airport to meet my uncle for the first time.

In that moment, I knew I was walking the path destiny crafted for me.

Actually, the Catholic church's LGBTQ stance is just fine

Mary Keran
Contributing Writer

This article is in response to an opinion piece by Serena Bonnette, published on Oct. 10. Like Serena Bonnette, I too am a Catholic woman, and I also believe it is wrong to condemn people who have homosexual tendencies. However, I do not believe the church does this. Ms. Bonnette stated that the church should change its teaching on the morality of acting on homosexual tendencies because people with homosexual tendencies were created that way and should be permitted to gain happiness in the way that they are able to express, because "acting on a genetic trait is not a sin." But should the genetics you were born with justify your actions? Someone can be born with a genetic disposition to the pleasurable effects of alcohol over others – but this does not mean they are meant to be alcoholics. I was born with poor vision – in my opinion I considered it to be normal. My parents, however made me get glasses so I wouldn't end up hurting myself down the road (literally). Just because I had a genetic predisposition of seeing the world one way did not make it the correct way. A child may be born with a sweet tooth (my sister certainly was!) and they may feel that copious amounts of ice cream will make them happy because it is pleasurable. Nonetheless, a parent tells them not to, not because parents want to make "anything and everything" a rule but because out of love, they desire what is ultimately best for the child. If, as you say, the church should change her doctrine to condone everyone acting in accord with their genetic tendencies, what about someone who is born with pedophilic tendencies? Does that condition justify their actions? While this may seem an extreme example, if the logic of excusing acting on a genetic trait is valid, then this example also becomes valid. In conclusion, I do not believe that how you are born or your genetics can determine what is right or wrong. And since this individualistic approach is lacking, then there must be an objective solution, one which the church, as a mother desiring our good, guides us towards in the truest sense of love for us and out of concern for our happiness.



Demons look to have their first winning season since 2014

Matthew Craig
Reporter



Mike McConathy, NSU'S head basketball coach. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

In his 20th season as NSU's head basketball coach, Mike McConathy will take his Demons on one of the toughest schedules they have had during his tenure. The Demons (4-25 last season) return seven players as they look to have their first winning season since their 2014 season. Among those returning players is sophomore center Larry Owens.

"I want us to at least win more than ten games, because we did not win ten games last year. I feel like if we win more than ten games starting out strong then we can get to where we need to be," said Owens.

Owens knows that the real work happens in practice, and that the team has to have a united mindset in order to reach the goal. Winning the Southland Conference Championship is the ultimate goal for the Demons. Owens knows the team depends on him to score, rebound and defend.

"Trying go out there and win, that's the biggest thing. Everybody has their own part to do and my part is going out there to score the ball, rebound and defend. That's the biggest thing for me," said Owens.

Sophomore guard C.J. Jones stepped up last season as the starting point guard, after well-known Demon Jalen West stepped away from the team last season. Jones looks to make a bigger impact on the team this year, because he wants the team to get into the Southland conference Tournament.

"My expectation is just to get better every day. We need to compete. I am trying get to the conference tournament because once you get to the tournament you never know what can happen," said Jones.

The Demons played a scrimmage over the weekend, which they only lost by seven points. "I think we are doing fine. We are still trying figure out who is going be the man, who is going do what, trying figure out how everybody is going play their role," said Jones.

The Demons are looking to have a better season than last year after only winning one game in conference. Junior forward Brandon Hutton believes the team has made the proper moves over the off season and has put in a lot of work in practice to get where they need to be.

"I feel like our team looks way better than last year. I feel like we are more brought in and there is a lot of stuff we need to improve on, but I feel like we will get there. If we keep going hard like we do in practice, then we will get to where we need to be," said Hutton.

Demons never yield, but can't finish comeback in 49-47 loss at ACU

Doug Ireland
Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director



Jazz Ferguson, #1. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

ABILENE, Texas – Northwestern State was on its heels, down 20 in the third quarter Saturday afternoon at Abilene Christian. But about an hour later, the Demons were inside ACU's 2, trying a tying two-point conversion with 1:34 left.

The Wildcats stacked up an inside run by Jared West to deny the conversion and survived one more series by the Demons to escape with a 49-47 Southland Conference football victory.

NSU's Shelton Eppler tied his own single-game school record with six touchdown passes, three to Jazz Ferguson and a pair to Bryson Bourque, but also suffered three interceptions, one at the ACU goalline and another returned 37 yards for the Wildcats' last TD.

That came with 4:39 left, lifting ACU (5-4 overall, 4-3 in the Southland) ahead by 49-35. It seemed to repel the Demons' rally, but Eppler and Marquisian Chapman connected for 37 positive yards on the next snap, launching a six-play, 67-yard scoring drive capped with 3:09 left on Eppler's 19-yard strike to Bourque.

But sophomore kicker Austyn Fendrick missed his first extra point kick of the year (another was blocked in week two by Grambling), leading NSU (3-6, 2-5) down 49-41.

Needing another score, the Demons' turnover-hungry Purple Swarm defense provided the opportunity. Linebacker Quindarrius Whitley stole the ball from an ACU running back at the Wildcats' 23 with 2:37 remaining, and three snaps and two Eppler completions later, NSU was back in the end zone.

Ferguson caught a 13-yard fade route in the left corner, breaking NSU's 50-year-old single-season touchdown reception record (10 by Al Phillips). He was the target when the Demons tried to draw even, and ACU drew an obvious interference penalty that moved the ball a yard-and-a-half away from the goalline.

This time, the ball went to West but ACU's interior defense smothered him in the backfield.

"We had a couple options there, and that one didn't work. Give ACU credit for making a great defensive stop," said first-year Demons' head coach Brad Laird.

NSU got one more shot in the final 30 seconds, starting at its own 15. Two completions moved the ball to the Demons' 40, but time expired after a sack and two incompletions.

"It crushes you to fight that hard, come back like that, and not win. I can't say enough about how this team competed. They will fight. That's who they are," said Laird, stopping to compose himself.

Eppler, playing for the first time in three games after a concussion sustained Oct. 20 against Sam Houston State, finished with 367 yards passing (third-most in school history) on 25-of-41 aim. His TD passes went for 42 yards to Jaylen Watson, 30 to Bourque, 25 and 33 to Ferguson, then the last two.

Ferguson had one more catch and totaled 82 yards receiving, giving him 934 in nine games, just 10 shy of the Demons' record 944 in 12 games in 2001 by Nathan Black.

"I don't care about the records. My brothers and I laid it all out there today and it hurts to lose this way," said Ferguson. "We've got to be better. Mistakes cost us earlier in the season against some ranked teams in games we should have won and it happened again today."

ACU's Luke Anthony threw for 344 yards, going 31 of 47 with an interception, including three short touchdowns, sandwiching a pair of 2-yarders around halftime.

The Wildcats drove 70 yards in 12 snaps, going up 24-14 with 15 seconds left, and rolled 75 yards on nine plays after the second-half kickoff to go up 31-14. The Purple Swarm defense came up big after Eppler's first interception gave ACU possession at NSU's 13, holding the Wildcats to a 23-yard field goal for a 34-14 lead.

But Ferguson and Eppler connected for scores twice in under four minutes as NSU closed the gap to 34-28, and the Demons refused to yield.

"We've got to play better, more consistent football for 60 minutes, from start to finish," said Laird. "But gosh, this team will compete for 60 minutes."

NSU is home for the final time this season next Saturday evening at 6 against nationally-ranked McNeese, which was upset 23-6 Saturday at Southeastern Louisiana.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: ISHMAEL LANE

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

As basketball season opened up Tuesday night against Centenary College, Preseason First-Team All-Southland Conference senior Ishmael Lane showed how his depth makes him one of the best center/ power forwards in the Southland Conference.

Lane, a senior business administration major, attended high school at Port Allen High School in Port Allen, Louisiana. During his time there, he achieved second-team all-district honors his junior year and was an all-state player his senior year, helping Port Allen advance to the quarterfinals, averaging 19 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks per game. He was also selected to The Advocate all-metro team.

Once coming to NSU, he made an immediate impact on the Demons squad, earning a spot on the NCAA's Top 64 Freshman list, as reported by College Court Report. Over the past three years, he's consistently been one of the Conferences leading scorers and top rebounders.

Last year, the 6-8 center/power forward was NSU's leading scorer (13.7 points per game), rebounder (7.2 average), shot blocker (1.8 per game) and most accurate 3-point shooter (37.8 percent).

Lane ranks 31st on the school's career scoring list (1,038 points), 23rd in rebounds (549) and eighth in blocked shots (101). If he matches last year's totals, he can finish 12th all-time in scoring, eighth in rebounding and fourth in blocks.

Upon graduating from NSU, Lane has dreams of going pro, and would like to eventually start his own business.



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Phi Mu Fraternity raises over $10,000 for Children's Miracle Network. *Photo by Victoria Perkins. (See page two for more photos.)*

Peace, love and Bonnamu:
Phi Mu holds music festival for CMN

Kierstin Richter
Copy Editor

On Friday, Nov. 9, The Kappa Iota chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity hosted their first-ever Bonnamu philanthropy event, raising over $10,000 for Children's Miracle Network.

The festival was planned and directed by philanthropy chair, Karley Hebert, a senior hospitality management and tourism major.

"My vision for Bonnamu was more of a big community hangout sesh," Hebert said. "I wanted to create a new vibe - emphasizing radiating positivity, happiness and the healing power of music, but most importantly, all for the kids!"

The festival featured two stages, one for EDM and another for other performances by individuals and student organizations. Local talents included Paige Cox, Sabertooth, Tyler Gatewood, The Sweet Tea Band, Swarm, Luke Basswalker, θX Alphas, NSU Pom Line, Demon Dazzlers, MYOT Performance Troupe, Lavish LUXX and Taija Stiles, a Phi Mu herself.

Merchandise was available for purchase such as t-shirts, local artwork, Kandi bracelets and different foods supplied by local vendors.

"I think this philanthropy event really appealed to the Natchitoches community and also NSU students, which I think can sometimes be difficult," said Vice President Caitlyn Cutrer. "Being able to watch Karley put on such a successful event makes me proud to be a Phi Mu." Although the festival was a new experience for the chapter, Cutrer says Hebert was wildly successful in getting everyone involved and motivated to put on the event.

"I had immense support from my sisters and from many alumnae as well," Hebert said. "I feel some people didn't know what to think about Bonnamu in the beginning, mainly because we had never hosted an event like this before, and it took so much hard work, passion and commitment to make the first year a success. I'm so happy with how everything played out and am so thankful for this opportunity!"

Cutrer says Bonnamu could potentially be an annual fall event for Phi Mu, but it is up to the next philanthropy chair to decide. Hebert fully supports a round two.

POLICE BLOTTER

11-02-18
Hit and Run- University Columns Parking

11-02-18
Disturbance- Watson Library

11-04-18
Assault (verbal) / Theft- University Columns

11-06-18
Disturbance- Demon Drive

11-06-18
Hit and Run- Watson Parking Lot

11-08-18
Theft- Parking Lot 9

11-08-18
Phone Stalking- University Columns

11-09-18
Drug Law Violation- Parking Lot 25



Annabelle, above, lives in Varnado Hall with her owner, freshman Lauren Deville. *Photo by Cassandra Phillips.*

Service animals assist students

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Although everyday pets are not allowed at Northwestern State University, you may have noticed a few service and emotional support animals around campus. It is important to note that these animals are registered and do jobs beyond what a normal pet could do. For some students, service animals can make their time in college a lot easier.

Catherine Faucheaux is a licensed counselor that works in the disability services office. She uses Bailey, a therapy dog, as part of her counseling sessions. Faucheaux clarified that emotional support animals are different from service animals.

She said that emotional support animals can help lower anxiety or symptoms of depression. Service animals, however, help a person dealing with physical disabilities—like guide dogs for the blind.

When discussing emotional support animals, Faucheaux emphasized that the process of getting one on campus is lengthy.

"Students must register with disability support and have a diagnosis warranting a need for an emotional support animal," Faucheaux said.

Paul Bryant, freshman, said he has noticed some of the animals that are on campus.

"I heavily support service animals," Bryant said. "They really help students a lot."

Lauren Deville, freshman, lives with Annabelle, her nine-year-old emotional support cat. Deville said the process of being able to have her cat living with her on campus took about three months to finalize.

"A lot of the girls on my side of the dorms like to come and play with her. She loves the attention," Deville said.

As of this writing, there are less than 10 such animals at NSU.

NSU grapples with rising tuition costs

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

The impact of college costs is directly influencing the masses of students that choose to attend college after high school. The increase in the amount of tuition state-wide affects students, especially those who cannot afford the full tuition price.

Currently, the tuition for students at NSU is $8,748 for the fall and spring. Yet, the room and board along with fees such as provided health services bringing it to about $10,000.

"The Board of Trustees approved a modest General Fee increase of 2% beginning Spring 2019," said Chief Financial Officer Patrick Jones when asked about any increases that NSU will experience.

The 2 percent increase totals to about $84 per student. While it doesn't seem like too much, the total number of students who put out loans in the past year totaled to 6,017 and averaged $9,059.

"While the state used to pay 75-80 percent of tuition while students paid 20 percent, that number has now flipped," said Dean of Students Francis Conine. When asked about what students can do if they can't afford the tuition, Conine mentioned the numerous aids like Pell Grants, loans, scholarships and TOPS.

" It's too expensive and not everyone can handle paying for it. There are a lot of really intelligent students that would like to come to a place like this but can't because they can't afford to [take out loans]," says freshman Ashleigh Klein. Klein studies radiology at NSU, and opened up about the tuition and other fees being an issue.

Yet, NSU is relatively lower than other schools in the Universities of Louisiana.

"We're relatively less than others, the rise after the fall semester won't be as much besides the 2 percent increase," said Conine. Conine also mentioned what NSU is doing to help keep the costs for its students at a moderate price.

"We really fundraised. We're always looking to give back," said Conine. She spoke of how the alumni's and fundraisers together give a large amount to scholarships and the school to help lower costs.

"We encourage students to visit with Financial Aid counselors regarding avenues to help pay costs. Our NSU Foundation should be contacted for any potential private scholarships available," said Jones in regards to what students could do if they were struggling to pay the costs.

NSU mourns loss of Beth Ann Monaghan

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

It has been a tough semester for the students, faculty and staff of Northwestern State University. NSU mourns the loss of three students this semester.

Elizabeth "Beth" Ann Monaghan was unfortunately, the most recent of the three students that we lost during the semester. Beth was in her final year, and she maintained a 3.7 GPA majoring in Veterinary Tech while participating in campus choir because of her passion for music.

"Beth was the kind of person you value in an ensemble. She was a faithful member, she participated, and she has a lovely voice," said Michael Rorex, associate professor in the music department and Beth's choir director. He also mentioned how quiet and always prepared she is. "She seemed to enjoy what she was doing," he said.

Because Beth was a Vet Tech major, Rorex only get to see her during choir. He rarely has close encounters with her.

"I did not know her very well, there are 70 people in the choir. I had a close encounter when she was auditioning," Rorex said.

"Music is something I think she enjoyed because I looked at the records and she never missed a class," he said.

Carole Lightell, Beth's close friend, spoke at the NSU's memorial held for Beth. She told a funny story about how they took a wrong turn coming back from Shreveport and ended up in Monroe.

"She was very sweet, very quiet and always had a smile on her face, always. If I think about it for too long, I start to cry. I have been doing a bit better though."

Beth's aunt, Holly Horn Broussard, in a short GoFundMe article said, "Beth was a ray of sunshine, always having a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eyes. She was kind, giving, gentle and funny with a beautiful soul. She had a very promising future ahead of her."

President Chris Maggio said, "Anytime you lose a student, it is so tough on everyone. We are sorry, and we want to keep our thoughts and prayers with her family." Beth's presence in NSU definitely affected a lot of people positively. Everyone said how she always had a smile on her face that brighten the day of anyone on her path. Her friends, professors and staff at NSU will miss her a lot.

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NSU Chamber Choir selected for competition in Austria

David West
Director of Communications



NSU was the only choir from the U.S. selected for the competition. *Submitted photo.*

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University's Chamber Choir has been invited to participate in the Ave Verum International Choral Competition in Baden, Austria on May 31-June 2, 2019.

NSU's Chamber Choir was one of 10 choirs chosen from around the world along with ensembles from countries including Russia, Slovakia, Czechia, Ukraine, Hungary and Italy. Northwestern State was the only choir from the U.S. selected for the competition.

"It shows that people are beginning to notice that we are doing great things at NSU," said Director of Choral Activities Dr. Nicholaus Cummins. "We are premiering a new major work by internationally renowned composer Richard Burchard. We placed second in a competition against choirs from 20 nations last year. I have received lots of offers for other competitions and festivals."

The competition is in honor of the location of Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus," which premiered in 1791 in Baden. This competition only occurs in odd years. The opening round features the 10 selected choirs which all sing in a night concert in the town square called the Long Night of Choral Music. The next day, four choirs are selected for the Grand Prix de Ave Verum. The winners receive a trophy and cash prize for the competition. The last American choir to win was the University of Georgia in 2013.

"I did not expect to be invited so quickly to another international competition. It says a lot about our choral program at Northwestern State University," said Amanda Charles, a graduate student in vocal music performance from Houston. "I arrived at NSU the same semester that Dr. Cummins took his position so I've seen the transitions that we have had to go through as a choir together. These competitions have pushed us as a group in the direction that we needed to go. We now have stronger work ethics, can take constructive criticism well, work well with each other and are more independent learners."

Last summer, the Northwestern State Lyric Choir won a Gold Medal in the Female Choirs category at the 3rd Budapest International Choral Celebration and Laurea Mundi International Open Competition and Grand Prix of Choral Music. The Chamber Choir received a Laurea Summa Cum Laude diploma in the Mixed Choir category and a Laurea Cum Laude diploma in the Musica Sacra (Sacred Music) category.

"We were invited to Singapore Orientale Festival as well, but we cannot go because we are already going to Austria," said Cummins. "Many conductors and composers have emailed and messaged me based on how we did last summer. It really was a completely life altering experience for our choral program."

The international competition has led to a new sense of confidence among choir members.

"I knew that our choir was one of the best in the world, but I'm so happy to see us finally getting to prove that on the world stage," said Michael Martin, a junior vocal music education major from Pineville.

Baden is near Vienna and is well-known for its spas. Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and many other well-known composers wrote music or lived there. Because of Baden's rich history, composer and choral director Wolfgang Ziegler founded the Ave Verum International Choral Competition in the city. An international jury will judge the competition. Ziegler asked Cummins to submit recordings of NSU's choir after the Laurea Mundi competition. More than 40 choirs were considered for the event.

Martin said last year's competition in Hungary has had a positive impact on the Chamber Choir.

"The main aspect that it has changed is the overall work ethic. The students, including myself, truly want to rise to the occasion and show the world what NSU is capable of doing," said Martin. "The competition in Hungary taught me that the world has limitless talent out there. We spent plenty of time having sectionals while we were there and cleaning up every little detail of our songs. It taught me to always be on my game because no one wants to mess up on an international stage. It taught the choir to work as a cohesive unit. We really came together as a group, and I was so proud of our work."

Charles said the NSU choir will go into the Austrian competition much better known.

"It does change things for me and for the group. We all want to make sure we are doing our part as a member of this program," said Charles. "We want to make sure we are representing not only our university well, but Louisiana and our country as well. I am so proud of each and every person in the Chamber Choir. We have really became a little family because of these past experiences and I am so grateful for them."

Members of the Chamber Choir are raising funds to cover their travel costs for the event. For more information, contact Cummins at (318) 357-5755 or at cumminsn@nsula.edu.

'Rosencrantz and Gildenstern are Dead' makes you feel alive

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

"Rosencrantz and Gildenstern are Dead" is an absurdist production that examines the world of art versus the world of reality. The show is based off Shakespeare's Hamlet with the side characters of the original show, Rosencrantz and Gildenstern, as the leads. Pia Wyatt, who directed the show and was nominated by The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) for Directing, did a marvelous job with the production.

The use of comedy throughout the show thoroughly balanced out the complex topics, just as a true Shakespearian show would. Madalyn Mullins, who portrayed The Player and was nominated by KCACTF for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship, had such an incredible understanding of the text, even when it would delve into iambic pentameter, that anyone in the audience was able to follow along with her every word. Kyle Munson's portrayal of Rosencrantz as the perfect comedic fool throughout the show had me cackling constantly. Munson was also nominated for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship. Meanwhile, Rosa Campbell, Gildenstern, perfectly balanced out that of Munson's half-witted character. Her portrayal allowed the play to always turn around on its heels and continue forward, therefore truly leading the show. Campbell is the last of the cast to earn an Irene Ryan nomination.

The set was nearly bare for most of the show, which I enjoyed. Sounds, props and lighting were later used to allow for scene and set changes. The light design for Act Three was absolutely marvelous. After intermission, the show begins again on a boat. The lighting was as if the entire theatre were underwear, and it was absolutely captivating.

If you were unable to see this production, you simply missed out. It was definitely one for the books for NSU. In the spring, NSULA Theatre and Dance will be producing two shows; "Cat in the Hat" as a dance production and "1940's Radio Hour." I can promise, you won't want to miss those either.

'Bleach' is yet another bland live action adaption

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Adaptations for Japanese properties to live action hasn't fared well in the past. People like to point out failures such as "Dragon Ball Evolution," "Ghost in the Shell" or Netflix's "Death Note" as examples of why live action movies based on popular shows don't work.

Recently Netflix distributed another one of these movies based on the manga, "Bleach." As a fan of the series, I can say that the movie "Bleach" is a serviceable adaptation. However, it ultimately fails at capturing the spirit of the source material.

The movie is based off "The Substitute" arc from the manga. Some changes were made to the overall story. Many of the feats and accomplishments of the main character, Ichigo Kurosaki, felt undeserved.

Some of the voice actors from the anime adaptation are the same, such as Johnny Young Botch as Kurosaki. Other characters, like Rukia, had different actors dubbing them. The voice actors do a decent job, but it all feels bland due to what material they are given.

The best praise I can give the movie is the visual effects and action scenes. The "hollows" that appear in the movie look very life like, and their models are super detailed.

The bombastic action, whether it be against the monsters or one-on-one sword fights, feels natural.

Despite some praises, I would not recommend the movie. It felt like a waste of time.

As an adaptation, it's best to avoid the movie and check out the original manga or the animated series.

Phi Mu hosts Bonnamu music festival







Philanthropy Chairman Karley Hebert hopes Bonnamu will be an annual event. *Photos by Victoria Perkins.*

Ask Vic

Q Why does NSU seem to cater towards certain majors such as nursing and neglect others?

A Although I wouldn't say that NSU neglects other majors, you are definitely right when you say that the focus is placed mainly on nursing.

I wouldn't say that the university caters specifically to nursing, but the most attention is drawn to it because of its national rankings and reputation in the region for being a very good program. Because it is one of the oldest and most established nursing programs in the area, it has had time to grow and become very good.

The university has many reputable programs, but when people think of Northwestern, they often think of nursing or education. That is what the school was initially founded for, so it has had time to grow and become very well-established. Many other programs are newer to the school and are still growing. Not to say that they are any less good, but just that they are not as well-known as some of the bigger ones.

However, I think it depends on who you are talking to. There are many students that have come to NSU for creative and performing arts because it's a very large program that is well known in the area for being very good. So I suppose it's all in who you talk to.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



The Oakland Plantation, where Keator Poleman lived as a child. *Submitted photo.*

What growing up on a plantation taught me

Keator Poleman
Managing Editor

For some, the legacy of the old South is about states' rights and preserving a culture. Although that, to a degree, is true, it is an oversimplification. As a descendant of a plantation family, I believe I should be a voice in curtailing these infractions.

My family owned and operated Oakland Plantation for over 200 years, until it was sold to the National Park Service in 1997. It is one of the few antebellum plantations with most of the original buildings intact.

Growing up, I never thought much about the impact my family had on the local community. The plantation grounds were just another place we called home.

I remember believing that we were better than others because we owned a plantation. I was arrogant, and thought I was somehow better than non-whites. However, it was only after informing myself about our past that I began to see the truth.

We as a generation have an opportunity to break down the barriers that divide us. We can remove the stereotype of the South being racist.

The old way of thinking is an unfortunate byproduct of years of re-telling the "lost cause of the Confederacy." Older whites were taught that the South fought honorably for their "God-given rights" to own people.

I find it odd that these same people will also wave Old Glory and sing the Pledge of Allegiance without a care in the world. The Confederates were traitors. To say anything else is un-American.

As a child, I remember being taught to be kind to others, regardless of their color, race, creed or origins.

In time, I hope other Southerners recognize the disease that is racism. As young people, we have an obligation to show the country that we are not our ancestors. Together, we can make a change for a better South.

Why is our student section low on students?

Mekayla Jenkins
NSU Student

College is different from high school in a lot of ways. From a freshman's point of view, I think some things ought to stay the same. Everyone at my high school went to the football, volleyball and basketball games. They sat in the student sections and went hard for their sake of their team.

Here at Northwestern State University, I've noticed that it's mostly student leaders, sororities and fraternities are the ones who go to the games, stand at the fence in the student section and stay after half-time when the Demons are down a couple points.

This football season I blame the weather for one reason fans left during the home games. I bet you're thinking, "What does it matter that I leave?" It matters, especially to student athletes, who sacrifice time, energy and social lives to represent us.

Most athletes don't play for themselves but for the university and community. Some may play just for the scholarship, but, after the McNeese football game, I know the Demons have nothing but heart and love for the game and their school.

There is no better feeling than knowing there are people out there who want you to win. As students, we are supposed to support our team.

I sat in the student section Saturday night with a few friends, and I looked over to see the opponents' fans sitting right beside us. I always wondered, I know I'm not the only one, but "Why is the student section on the visiting side?"

I've asked around and the only answer I get is that it's always been that way. I guess it's to intimidate the other team, but us just sitting and only cheering when we do something right isn't intimidating honestly.

When you look at the home side from the visitor side, it looks sad. The cheerleaders are cheering to 20 people in that one section.

But imagine if the student section was there on the home side. Cheerleaders could lead chants, throw free NSU merch and our football team could have an interactive crowd to turn to and pump up beside their teammates on the sideline and coaches.

Moving the student section would go a long way towards building team spirit in the Inferno. This is your team. Go out there and cheer them on!

How should we empathize with mentally ill people?

Mark Alexander
NSU Student

Why is it that human beings cannot find the proper balance of empathy toward people with mental illness? Even at this school, a small school where love, compassion and unity is emphasized, empathy is a tool that has been misused in some ways or not used at all by our faculty and by our peers.

When it comes to mental disorders and social disorders, people are much less empathetic than they ought to be. This is due to a number of reasons. For example, some may not believe in mental disorders, believing these to be excuses for people to act a certain way in public. You may not see mental health as a true problem and believe that it can be "prayed away."

I have experienced mistreatment of people with social and/or mental disorders firsthand. The most recent one being a woman who had an emotional disorder.

She came to me and asked me to watch her service dog while she played dodgeball. The dog itself was not pleased so I walked it around to keep it from whining and causing a commotion. Unfortunately, the sound of dog tags bothered a professor who was testing that night, who requested I took the dog outside.

This woman had a breakdown over dodgeball, needing the help of her emotional support animal. The professor wanted the dog out and the woman as well. She tried to explain why the breakdown happened and that she needed her dog, but the professor was still oblivious to her emotional disorder. He said, and I quote, "I don't care if you got hit by a garbage truck, that kind of commotion is unnecessary." I was disappointed, especially when I have seen the other side of the spectrum. From no empathy to too much.

I have found that when it comes to mental disabilities, people are more empathetic, which can be good, but can sometimes be overdone to the point where it's patronizing, condescending, and downright coddling.

A man with autism lives in my dorm, and has made a few women uncomfortable, whether it was by hugging them too long or failing to respect boundaries. For men, the man only socially annoys them, showing that he treats women and men differently. This man also occupies the community ballroom on the weekends and uses the community T.V. for hours at a time. This causes the community of my dorm to be less communal. The man has even been alleged to have performed masturbation in the ballroom. Although this is just rumor, preceding behaviors have caused others to believe this.

My problem, however, is not entirely with the man himself, although he can be problematic. The problem is that others will excuse his behavior because of his autism. Stating that he "can't help it." I find this unfair when I consider other autistic people on this campus who make better grades than I do or autistic friends and family I know back home that don't behave this way.

Accommodations and reasonable understandings are one thing, and are very appreciated and help the matters, but excuses like this are unacceptable.

So where do we draw the line? When should we be empathetic? When is it too much or too little? Can we be stern and also understanding? And most importantly, how can we balance empathy when it comes to people with mental health problems?

"I guess one person can make a difference."

- Stan Lee

(December 18, 1922 - November 12, 2018)

DEMON DEBATES

Let's replace The Grill

Trinity Velazquez - Viewpoints Editor

Yes, The Grill should be replaced. The complaints are at an all-time high and it is time for a change. There are plenty of grill places in Natchitoches and it wouldn't hurt if we lost one. I believe we should replacement with something we don't already have.

If we made The Grill into a Panera Bread or a Mexican restaurant, I think students would be much happier. Also, I think if The Grill was replaced with a restaurant that was aimed towards vegetarians, NSU would have a lot healthier options then some sleazy and greasy burger.

If The Grill were to be replaced with a chain restaurant, then we would be able to put more students to work. There would be hosting and waiting positions along with more chefs and students busing tables.

The food at The Grill is unhealthy and its prices are ridiculous. If I'm going to pay that much for a burger and fries, then I'd at least like it to good. I'm sure that if the idea was pitched to Sodexo enough, they would have no choice but to replace it.

Maybe if The Grill was cleaner and bigger, it wouldn't be as big of an issue. But the place is cramped, there are only two people in the back and there is only one person taking orders, so everything is slow, hot and always busy.

I can't emphasize enough how much better NSU would be if The Grill was replaced.

Let's not and say we did

Mekayla Jenkins - Photographer

Get rid of The Grill? No way! Where else am I going to watch Jerry Springer, Dr. Phil, and Maury all at once?

I'm a freshman, and I didn't even know The Grill existed until mid-September. It's something that only NSU students know about. Its our own secret thing that you would only know about if you are on the inside. Sure, the burgers, pizza and subs are basic, but where else are you going to get sweet potato fries to go?

The Grill plays a big part in the diversity of Northwestern State University. Personally, The Grill reminds of places from my hometown. It is a place where you are not only paying for the food, but also the atmosphere.

From the "soul food" being served to the way the furniture is set up, The Grill has a distinctly African-American culture to it. In the black community, when we come together, the focus is on two things: food and conversation.

Look at how The Grill is set up. The tables are close and it's a nice environment to just be together. The food is really good, from the sweet potato fries to the chicken strip burgers that come with the Texas toast on the side. The wings are truly worth all the hype they get.

When asked "Should we get rid of The Grill?" my answer is no. I love The Grill and I don't want to see it go anywhere. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

NSU ends 14-year losing streak to McNeese, looks to keep Chief Caddo



Saturday marked the first time NSU beat McNeese since 2004. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Matthew Craig
Reporter

Northwestern State (4-6 overall, 3-5 in the Southland Conference) knocked off nationally-ranked McNeese (6-4 overall, 5-3 in the Southland Conference) 34-37 in a double overtime win this past weekend, ending a 14-year losing streak to the team. The last time the Demons beat McNeese was in 2004 and Head Coach Laird was the defensive coordinator on that 2004 squad.

Throughout the game, players on offense and defense made plays. Sophomore safety Hayden Bourgeois made a key field goal block to keep the Demons in the game. He knew at that moment he had to make a play.

"I just knew I had to make something happen," Bourgeois said. "I just squeeze[d] through and I got the block."

For Bourgeois, the key to the game was pressure.

"We came out bringing the pressure on the quarterback and we knew pressure was going get him rowdy," Bourgeois said. "They kind of figured it out and started getting the offense moving."

Winning close games like the Demons did over the weekend starts with practice and Bourgeois knew his team put in a lot of work at practice to make sure they got his win.

"We work hard at practice every day and Coach Laird told us 'this team is special for something and we made it happen tonight,'" Bourgeois said.

Junior wide receiver Jazz Ferguson broke a 50-year-old touchdown receptions record for a season, held by Al Phillips, with his game-winning touchdown.

"It really would have not meant a lot to me if we had lost this game. It would have been another record," said Ferguson.

"I passed a record last week and we lost so I really didn't pay no mind to it, but to win this game, to beat this team that who we have a huge rivalry with along with this record it felt like a lot."

Ferguson is getting some NFL buzz with his record-setting season, but he plans to come back next season.

"I want to play with these boys one more year," Ferguson said. "I want get this going and I just want to be happy with this team. I want to do everything next year the right way and how it was supposed to turn out this year and do it next year."

NSU goes on the road to take on Stephen F. Austin (2-7 overall, 2-6 in the Southland Conference) this Thursday.

Head Coach Brad Laird highlighted the importance of making sure the team keeps Chief Caddo on NSU's campus.

"Chief Caddo is going be in the locker room all week, that is the largest trophy in college football and what a rivalry this is," Laird said. "Throw records out the window. Whether it is a Thursday, Saturday afternoon or night game, it's always a special game, and we look forward to the opportunity on Thursday."

Lady Demons run past LeTourneau in home opener

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director



Kira Bonner, #24, scored 20 points against LeTourneau Monday. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

NATCHITOCHES – Slow starts at the beginning of either half did not impede the Northwestern State women's basketball team in its home opener.

The Lady Demons' defense helped pull them out of some sluggish offense early Monday afternoon and set the tone for a 100-40 victory against visiting LeTourneau inside Prather Coliseum on Elementary School Day.

"We want to extend our defense, get out in passing lanes and take chances," third-year head coach Jordan Dupuy said. "We were trapping ball screens, looking to run and jump in the half court to break them out of rhythm. We didn't know what they were going to run, being their first game. We were looking to take chances. We did it for the most part. Slow start on both ends of the floor, but as we got our defense going, we scored in spurts. We're more athletic and can get out and score."

Northwestern State (1-1) forced 42 turnovers, its most since turning Central Baptist over 47 times on Dec. 20, 2017. The Lady Demons turned those miscues into 54 points.

Although Northwestern State hit the century mark in points for the first time since a 113-65 win against Louisiana College on Dec. 20, 2016, it took a while for NSU to crank up its offense.

The Lady Demons had only a Libba Gilliam layup through the first 4:05 of the game and trailed the visiting Yellowjackets, who played the game as an exhibition, by two until Sami Thomas connected on a 3-pointer with 5:55 to play in the first quarter.

From there, NSU took control with a trapping, pressing defense that smothered LeTourneau. The Yellowjackets' 40 points were the fewest allowed by Northwestern State since holding Central Baptist to 22 points in an 87-22 win this past December.

Northwestern State rung up 24 steals with all 10 players pilfering at least once. Seven players had multiple steals, led by Lacee Savage's career-high five swipes.

"We were pushing the ball the whole time, playing our game," Savage said. "We weren't worried about what the other team was doing. Coach said be aggressive, so that's what we did. I love playing defense, and I feel like that's my strong suit."

NSU shifted quickly from defense to offense, converting many of those turnovers into easy baskets, allowing the Lady Demons to win the fast-break scoring battle 34-3.

The Lady Demons put six players in double figures, led by junior Kira Bonner's career high 20 points. Bonner hit her first five shots from the floor in her Prather Coliseum debut.

"The defense was sagging off, and I know I'm a shooter," said Bonner, who hit all three of her 3-point tries. "It was the perfect opportunity for me to take advantage."

Jada Freeman (14) and RaVon Nero (13) both had career-high point totals while Nautica Grant (12), Libb Gilliam (12) and Jocelyn Scott (11) also hit double figures. Savage and Sami Thomas each had eight points for Northwestern State, which saw nine of its 10 players score.

Keauna Whitfield led LeTourneau with 14 points.

Northwestern State returns to action Thursday when it travels to Oklahoma. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. from the Lloyd Noble Center.

GAME SCHEDULE

Men

THU 11.15.18 6:00
@NACOGDOCHES, TX
V.S. SFA

SAT 11.17.18 2:00
@HOUTSON, TX
V.S. RICE

MON 11.19.18 7:00
@HOUSTON, TX
V.S. HOUSTON

FRI 11.23.18 6:30 @
PRATHER
V.S. A&M

TUE 11.27.18 6:30
@PRATHER
V.S. ULM

Women

THU 11.15.18 7:00
@NORMAN, OK
V.S. OAKLAHOMA

TUE 11.20.18 6:30
@PRATHER
V.S. ALCORN

SAT 11.24.18 1
@PRATHER
V.S. LOYLA (LA)

TUE 11.27.18 6
@HATTISBURG, MS
V.S. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

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NSU President Chris Maggio and KTBS News Director Randy Bain shake hands to seal the deal. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

Communications department makes deal with Shreveport broadcasting station

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

On Nov 15, 2018, Northwestern State University and KTBS signed an agreement that will give NSU students the opportunity to work directly with professionals at KTBS and even publish work on their platforms.

KTBS is a broadcasting station owned and operated by KTBS, LLC, and is one of the few stations in the country that can still claim local ownership and community identity.

KTBS will keep NSU updated with the newest news technology and show students different methods of gathering news.

"I feel and I know that this partnership is going to change our region because it is going to expose our students to a lot more of hands-on technology and collaboration," said President Dr. Chris Maggio.

KTBS will also provide many internship opportunities to NSU students. "Students will get a chance to work with professionals that are in the field" Maggio said.

Maggio thanked the faculty for doing a "tremendous" job because they help students through every angle in the journalism field. "But this partnership is going to take it to another level," Maggio said.

"We are truly excited to be partners with Northwestern State University," KTBS station manager, George Sirven said.

Sirven explains how the benefits for the partnership are endless. "Not only are you getting a quality education from Northwestern State University but now you are being exposed to what we feel is the richest technology television station in the country," he said.

"KTBS and the broadcast industry is changing, it's evolving, and what a great opportunity to take students from NSU and show them what this new workflow is all about, how it all works, and how they truly can best serve whether it be KTBS or other employers after they graduate," Station Manager George Sirven said.

Sirven talks about the continuous changes and evolvement of the workflow in the broadcast industry. He thinks this is the right time for students to jump aboard. "What a great opportunity to take students from NSU and show them what this new workflow is all about, how it all works and how they truly can best serve whether it be KTBS or other employers after they graduate," he said.

"Welcome aboard. Welcome to KTBS and welcome to the world of journalism and I look forward to working with you," News Director Randy Bain said.

Maggio is excited for the partnership. "It's a great day because this is the future," he said.

'Inferno Pitch' competition announces winners

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter



The Inferno Pitch competitors pose for a picture at the Nov. 15 inaugural event. *Photo by Cassandra Phillips.*

The Inferno Pitch, starting the fall of 2018, recently ended its first inaugural launch Nov. 15.

Senior Alba Madoff Johnson and junior Matthew Broekman were the first-place winners of the competition with their device that creates a way to prevent drunk driving through the steering wheel. The device is called IDP Tech, or Impaired Driving Prevention Technology. Madoff Johnson and Broekman were one of five runner ups that were narrowed down from a total of forty submissions.

"One inspiration was my brothers, I wanted them to be safe," said Broekman. The device won't allow, through a biosensor, a person to drive while intoxicated. This is also said to work for when someone starts drinking after driving by the sweat glands in a person's hands.

The Inferno Pitch initially only allowed a control group of the students in the business college, but Dean of the College of Business and Technology Margaret Kilcoyne expresses that they hope to expand to the rest of the university.

"I see it as a win-win for everybody...because there are some really amazing ideas that out students have," said Kilcoyne. "The good thing is that it brings together people who may have never worked together otherwise," said Madoff Johnson when asked about if she saw the Inferno Pitch as a good project for the school to continue with.

The only negatives, mentioned by Broekman and Madoff Johnson, were the rushed process along with the fact that more time would have been nice to develop the idea and finish for the final pitch. The Inferno Pitch is free for students, which allows most of the students at Northwestern to participate.

"We have great folks, for example, over in the science area, in the CAPA area, our nursing area, et cetera. If we wanted to, we could even open it up to NSU alumni," said Kilcoyne when asked about how the benefits of expansion.

The Inferno Pitch process involves three stages. The first will be the submission of the idea, followed by a mandatory business planning session at NSU, and lastly the final pitch to a panel if the submission gets that far. It provides a venue for the students of NSU to introduce their ideas before a panel of professional entrepreneurs.

After winning, the students would be available to a scholarship along with other prizes to help them develop and process their invention professionally.

Kilcoyne expressed one of the key phrases used as inspiration throughout the process from a speech by Dr. Niesha McCoy: 'Preparation plus opportunities equals success.' The idea was that students who had an idea could come forward and have accessibility to professional help to assist them in their process to promote their ideas.

"Don't be afraid, believe in your product," said Broekman when asked about what advice for future submissions. Madoff Johnson followed with her own advice, "Any idea you have, go for it."

Another amendment would prohibit felons from serving in public office until five years after completing their sentence. The law currently allows felons to serve after completing their sentence.

If voted for, one amendment would remove the right of state police to use money from the Transportation Trust Fund for traffic control purposes.

One amendment could extend eligibility for certain special property tax treatments to property held in trust.

Voters can also decide whether a political subdivision can donate the use of public equipment and personnel to another.

Another amendment may require a four year phase-in of tax liability for homes subject to the homestead exemption when a reappraisal increases assessments by more than 50 percent.

Natchitoches residents will also vote on whether or not to allow fantasy sports to be played inside the parish.



The future Chick-fil-A Express site at Northwestern State Marketplace, currently undergoing construction. *Photo by Hannah Pettus.*

NSU Chick-fil-A postponed... again

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Construction of the Chick-fil-A Express at Northwestern State is still underway. So far, no clear date has been set for its opening.

Drake Owens, assistant vice-president for external affairs, said that getting the concrete poured and the weather are some of the reasons the project has been delayed. He said there was a transition period between finishing Northwestern State Marketplace's bookstore and starting the Chick-fil-A side.

"When we started the Chick-fil-A side we started with different contractors than the marketplace," Owens said. "We're working diligently to get it open, and we'll keep the student body updated on the progress."

Owens also noted that a crosswalk and additional parking are being added. Some NSU students have voiced concerns about the placement of the restaurant.

"They put it in a bad spot with super bad traffic," said Elizabeth Peterson, a junior.

The restaurant is expected to be finished in late December or early next semester.

Jace Jordan, freshman, said he is excited for the new restaurant. "I'm excited about the Chick-fil-A on campus because it will add more options for food on and off campus," he said.



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That's right. Christmas GALA is back.

Anna Birbiglia
Contributing Writer

Christamas Gala, for most students, means a lot of on-campus traffic, and a couple people missing in their classes. For CAPA students, it's a performance opportunity on the collegiate level that is most comparable to professional work.

We perform nine shows in three days and have taken the show to the Strand in Shreveport. It always falls right before finals, so many of us are forced to miss our last week of classes. We make this sacrifice, though, for the love of the performance. With the help of the university, most professors do an excellent job at accommodating us and keeping us prepared despite the three days of classes we will be on the stage and not in a desk.

Gala this year is not only celebrating it's 30th anniversary, but is also being directed for the first time by Michael Rorex, who has been an absolute pleasure to work with. Gala captures all departments of CAPA including; theatre, dance, music, and artistic design. The show is based off of that of the 'Radio City Spectacular' therefore encompassing music, choral pieces, and dances.

This is my fifth Gala. So far I have been a Toy Solider, Rockette, in the Musical Theatre Ensemble and one of this year's new addition of the Rag Dolls. We rehearse for months to be able to provide the best nine shows possible. There are swings that sometimes never see the stage that await in the wings in case of injury!

The amount of joy you hear in the crowd makes the hard work worth it. The children scream with glee upon the sight of every new costume and spectacle. Every time I hear a child's laugh or someone scream "SANTA" I grin harder than I have the entirety of the year. The long hours, sweat, and literal blood feel absolutely worth it the moment the lights and music start on that first show.

Gala opens Wednesday, Nov. 28 for a three-day stint in A.A. Frederick's. Happy Gala and a Merry Christmas to all the wonderful citizens of Natchitoches, Lousisiana!



Left to right, Cassidy Giddens, Dwight Robinette, Emily Ricalde, Asher Van Meter and Rosa Campbell perform at last year's Christmas Gala. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

A perfectly executed rejection

Kierstin Richter
Copy Editor

"Hey there beautiful."

I roll my eyes and walk away.

"Hey babe, wanna dance?"

Nope sir. I do not.

"Darlin' you wanna drink?"

I held up my bottle of moscato as to say "Nah I'm good" and continued on.

Mimosa Monday. Taco Tuesday. Wine Wednesday. There's something to look forward to every day of the week. What isn't there look forward to? Sloppy boys that spill drinks on your brand-new white, off-the-shoulder top and continually ask why you aren't interested.

It's amazing what boys can get away with - peeing in the bushes, running without a shirt on, having the option to become a priest. It really does sometimes seem like it is a man's world. Another thing they somehow get away with? Handling rejection like a pro. It's like boys were bred to be rejected. Girls? They can't handle it in the slightest bit. If I even hint that I'm interested in a boy, and he doesn't pick up on my subtle attempts of trying to telepathically let him know, I take it as a hard rejection and spend three days with a jar of Nutella and powdered donuts. Boys, however, can put themselves out there multiple times in one night and still end the day thinking they're God's gift to womankind. Why this is, I still do not know. However, my experiences tonight have shown how resilient a boy can be. It's almost as if they can just walk around and say, "Want some of this? No? Okay... How about you? No? Alright... On to the next one!" They don't understand when a girl isn't interested.

The house shook as the bass of the speakers pounded and echoed like gunfire. I cradled my bottle of pink moscato and slapped away freshman girls that asked for some. They saw pink bubbly and swarmed. I swatted them away, and as a rushee appeared, he slipped his arm around me and asked for my name. I peered around with the snarkiest stank eye I could muster and ignored his advances, darting away. I took a swig of my cherished wine and sat down. I knew my peace wouldn't last long. There is something magnetic about a girl sitting all by herself. I think boys have a radar that starts beeping in their minds when they see a girl all by her lonesome. One rounded the corner and slid to my side.

"Would your boyfriend want me sitting this close to you?"

I peered to my left with the same stank eye as before. Every time I speak with him, we have the same conversation because he's normally too drunk or high to remember the previous one. It's like one of those movies where the main character relives the same day over and over in a continuous time loop and has to figure out how to escape. In this movie, however, the only escape was sarcastic replies and attempts to run before the time loop repeated.

"I've told you before. I don't have a boyfriend."

"Oh that's right. Well you look awfully beautiful tonight."

"Thanks," I cradled my pink moscato and inched away.

"So why don't 'ya tell me... Why don't 'ya like me?"

If I ever asked a guy why he didn't like me, I think I would die of humiliation.

I sat there in silence. Maybe if ignore it, it will go away. Like a bee. Or a feral cat. It didn't.

"Am I ugly or somethin'? Is that it?"

"No."

"Then why not? I really like you."

Persistence is key, apparently, because somehow this guy was still here and has not yet been punched in the throat.

"I just don't want a relationship right now."

"Ah... I see how you are then..." he gave a smirk and inched closer. I gagged a little and jumped out of my seat.

"No. I'm not like that."

"Then what is it? Why won't you just tell me?"

I swear these boys were like the love-bugs that swarmed the August of 2017. Even if you swat at them, they just sit there - unafraid.

In efforts to make myself seem intimidating, as creatures do in the animal kingdom, I perched on top of the rail that surrounded the dance floor like a tree branch of safety. I thought this was a good plan, as it would place me higher and therefore, less attainable. Wrong. It was like putting a gazelle in predator's view. A lanky, scraggly bearded guy drunkenly tried to leap up to the railing, and he woefully failed. (See? I was safe from predators reach, at least.) I felt like Katniss in The Hunger Games. As he made multiple attempts to climb up, in my horrified view, he finally gave up and just craned his neck up to talk to me.

"So, do you have a big bad boyfriend that's gonna beat me up if I talk to you?"

"No, but I'll kick your ass if you do."

In an almost perfectly timed motion, I grabbed the hand of my roommate on the dance floor, and slid down from the railing, twirling away from a perfectly executed rejection, escaping the time loop once again.

NSU Chamber Choir to compete in Austria

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Northwestern State's Chamber Choir is the only American group chosen to take part in an international competition in Baden, Austria. The choir was chosen among 10 other groups from around the world.

Formed by Dr. Burt Allen in 1987, the NSU Chamber choir is a flagship choir and the most highly auditioned ensemble at the university.

The choir currently consists of four choirs with a fifth coming next year. Students rehearse four times a week with individual sessions in the choir. The eventual goal is for all the choirs to reach the chamber's level.

Nicholas Cummins, director of choral activities, said when they went to an international competition last summer that no one knew who they were. After competing, he added, people took notice.

Cummins said one of the judges told him to have the choir audition for the competition in Austria.

One goal of the trip is for the students to make friendships across the world with music, and to understand other cultures.

"We want to win, but the other goal is to create an understanding of other cultures," Cummins said. "You become more reflective on what it means to be kind to those who don't look like you or speak your language."

The Chamber Choir is holding an online fundraiser on Facebook to raise money. Concerts will be held in the spring to help raise money.

Other nations in the event include Italy, Russia, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia and Czechia. The competition will be from May 31-June 2, 2019.

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Eyes of Argus:

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at poems written by NSU students, published in the university's poem collection "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

a Daydream

Allie Atkinson

My thoughts would waltz to you
When the stars were gleaming,

Seeming to glide through my fantasies
So the world wouldn't seem so harsh.

The clouds hâve cleared.

I hâve nowhere to rest my head,

So I lay in bed and imagine us
Always choosing each other instead.

But one peek of a passing cornet

And your eyes glistened, reflective in the moonlight.

As you gravitated to its enchanting fiâmes,

Painting the cloaked night.

And when you looked at me
I realized you were blinded.

And I was but a wisp of a day dream
That you awoke from.

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic, I've been seeing this guy off and on for a couple years, and we've never been just friends, but there's always been something there. I'm sick and tired of waiting for him to do something, and I want to be a strong independent woman who don't need no man, but geez, I can only send so many telepathic signals! He makes all these excuses of why he doesn't want a relationship right now, but he keeps reeling me back in. It only really seems like he talks to me when there's an ulterior motive, but why can't I let him go?

A Hello I have a very simple answer for you. If he was serious about you, he would have done something about it. Since it's been quite a while, stop playing ring around the rosie with this boy and cut it off. Sounds to me like a toxic relationship. If he makes you feel bad, confused or uncertain about where you stand, let it go. I know it's much easier said than done, but sometimes we hold onto relationships just for the sake of wanting something (anything!) to work. Take a step back and reevaluate. Is this relationship (of any kind) making you a happier, healthier person? Are you making excuses for him or stretching the truth to make it make sense? What do your friends think of him? Do they groan every time you bring up his name again and again? Be honest with yourself and recognize when you deserve better. Remember, indecision is a decision. It's a vicious cycle, and it will only leave you hurt and confused. Do yourself a favor and reestablish your standards and boundaries. Chances are, this guy won't make the cut.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ will rock you

Jessica Gray
Event Coordinater

Rami Malek has brought Queen to generations that were not born when Queen’s lead singer, Freddie Mercury, graced the universe with hits such as Bohemian Rhapsody and Killer Queen. The film “Bohemian Rhapsody,” which was released on Nov. 2, has received some of the same reactions from critics and fans as the actual song of the same name, received in the 70s.

The film follows Queen’s lead singer, Freddie Mercury, from his rise to fame, coming out and diagnosis of AIDS. Rami Malek, who portrays Mercury, brings him to life in a way that nobody else could. From the prosthetic teeth Malek wore to make him appear to have the same four octave range as Mercury, to the countless hours of movement classes to perfect his rendition of Mercury.

It is easy to get lost in the film and forget that we are not actually watching Mercury himself. Not to ignore the other actors who portray Queen’s drummer, Roger Taylor; guitarist, Brian May and bassist, John Deacon. The portrayals of each character are executed in a way you often forget that they are not indeed the actual members of Queen.

As an audience member, “Bohemian Rhapsody” has easily become one of my favorite movies of all time. The costumes, story-telling and above all - the music, have left Bohemian Rhapsody in the hearts of audiences all over the world.

NSYou:

What is your favorite thing to do over the Holidays?



“My favorite thing is going home for the holidays and having a home-cooked meal. Spending time with family is what makes the holidays so special.”
Austin Beene
Music Education
Senior



“I love the holidays because I’m able to procrastinate on all my schoolwork longer and my parents pay for food.”
Brynn Offutt
Junior
Psychology



“I love being able to drive home to see all of my family and friends.”
Zoe Hebert
Sophomore
Louisiana Scholar’s College



“The thing I love about holidays is spending time with my family and enjoying some great food.”
LaJarious Jones
Homeland Security
Graduate Student



To the hero who created heroes

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Dear Stan Lee,

I knew there would be a day when I would be in the movie theater and after the end credits of a Marvel movie there would be a picture of you saying, “RIP Stan Lee” but I didn’t know how hard it could affect me.

I grew up reading the Spider-Man, Avengers and Black Panther comics and when I first saw Iron Ma come to life my little 9-year-old heart was even more in love with Marvel than I already was. I hate that you’re gone because the world already seems less super without you.

It’s because of you that my imagination still runs free and it’s because of you that I believe that following your dreams does pay off. You created a world for kids who felt like they didn’t belong in the real one, you created heroes that I can relate to or pretend to be whenever I want.

It’s also because of you that my dad and I are close. We both love your work and were very upset when we found out that you passed away. I don’t want to imagine what my life would have been like if you hadn’t entered it.

I remember picking up my first Black Panther comic from a comic shop and refusing to put it down until I was finished with it. I read comic after comic until I realized that I couldn’t fit any more on my shelf.

You always told everyone to follow their dreams and with every superhero you created and wrote about, a child formed a dream of their own. You inspired so many people during your time here and I hope that I never forget the joyful feeling you used to bring to me just by hearing your name.

When you made one of your famous cameos the whole theater would cheer and say, “Look it’s Stan Lee!”, you put smiles on kids and adults everywhere and you knew it. You loved your characters and your fans just as much as we loved you.

I can’t thank you enough for sharing your thoughts and dreams with me and the world. You created a lifetime of achievements and you never lost sight of who you were. You weren’t just a Marvel artist, you were a superhero all on your own.

So, Stan, thank you for everything you’ve done for us. You brought together everyone who felt like they were loners or losers and gave them an escape to create a world of their own. I hate that I must live in this world without you, but I promise to keep you alive with every comic I purchase and with every movie I see.

I don’t know what Marvel Comics would do without you, Stan. You are the legend among legends and you will be remembered for years to come.

Should humans have rights? Be honest.

Cassie Phillips
Contributing Writer

This article is in response to an article published in our Nov. 7 issue by Mary Keran, which itself was was in response to an article published in our Oct. 10 issue by Serena Bonnette.

As someone who was raised in a Christian household and now considers herself agnostic, I am inviting myself in the discussion surrounding gay rights in the catholic church that Serena Bonnette and Mary Keran arose. All three of us share two remarkable qualities: we’re students at Northwestern State, and we think it’s wrong to condemn homosexuality.

So, the big question is, should the Roman Catholic Church support LGBTQ+ rights? Spirituality is one of the largest influences on the human population’s moral compass, and Catholicism continues to be the most popular denomination of Christianity. Those who hold that kind of power should acknowledge the progress of humanity and adapt to it. Even the students I’m responding to agree that, essentially, civilization has modified as a society to accept a variety of individuals.

Bridging the divide between science and religion is difficult. I believe that genetics cannot inherently be right or wrong. Scientific studies have shown evidence that homosexuality is genetic. Those who wrote the Bible thousands of years ago didn’t have the technology to determine these ideas. Religion was their science, so they continued to push the belief that being gay was unnaturally wrong.

Homosexuality is as natural as heterosexuality. No one bats an eye at a straight couple kissing in public, so why is homosexuality still frowned upon?

Katie, an LGBTQ+ student at NSU, was raised in a Catholic community, and she says, “I think the church has lost its right to judge people’s lifestyles. Tradition is what says they shouldn’t support gay people. I didn’t want to accept who I was, and that had a lot to do with upbringing.”

Christians choose to base their moral code on what is and isn’t a sin. Since the Bible tells them what that is, they will follow the belief that homosexuality is sinful.

Yes, I think the Catholic Church should support LGBTQ+ rights because they are human’s rights. There is no longer a reason for them not to. However, many followers will continue to do as their book tells them because it’s traditional.

In conclusion, love is love, and the Catholic Church is on the wrong side of history right now.

HAVE AN OPINON TO SHARE?

put a fork in our inbox

Submit your opinion articles to **thecurrent-sauce@gmail.com** for editorial consideration.

Demons battle back, overcome Alabama A&M in overtime

Doug Ireland
Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director

Considering the 20 missed 3-pointers by the Northwestern State basketball team Friday night, it was especially ironic that Ishmael Lane's trey was the dagger for the Demons in a 70-66 overtime victory over visiting Alabama A&M.

The last trio of Lane's team-best 18 points came with nine seconds left, from the left wing off an assist from junior walk-on John Norvel. That followed an offensive rebound by senior DeAndre Love with 37 ticks remaining, extending a precarious possession beginning with 59 seconds to go after an overthrown pass by the Bulldogs.

Lane's 3-pointer pushed NSU (2-4) up 68-63. The Bulldogs (0-5) answered on a 3-pointer by 24-point scorer Jalen Reeder with 2.1 seconds left, but after a timeout, the visitors couldn't stop Lane's inbounds pass to LaTerrance Reed, who was fouled and sank two clinching free throws with 1.1 remaining.

The Demons led only briefly, and not for very long, just 6:22 of the 45 minutes. But they never trailed in overtime, after Lane nailed a 16-footer 48 seconds into the extra period, after overcoming a deficit as big as 10 points in regulation.

Northwestern's miserable first-half shooting (31 percent overall, including 2 of 15 on 3-pointers) was problematic. Norvel provided a spark in the final five seconds with a 26-foot 3-pointer to close the Demons within 31-26.

While NSU never found its range from distance afterward, missing six more 3-pointers before Lane's OT shot, the Demons did improve inside the arc.

After making six of its first seven, starting with a pair of twisting layups by sophomore point guard C.J. Jones, Northwestern snatched its first edge since the opening minute with a 41-40 advantage on two Reed free throws with 15:06 showing.



C.J. Jones does a pair of twisting layups. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

But Alabama A&M quickly regained the upper hand, although never by more than 55-50 with 5:49 left. After Vonte Ott's 15-footer eight seconds later, the spread was never bigger than three until the final seconds of overtime.

Neither team scored a bucket in the final 3:25 of regulation. Lane sank a free throw with 33 seconds to go for a 61-all tie, but missed a go-ahead try.

The Bulldogs had a pair of turnovers in the last minute and never got off a shot, and a drive by Jones into traffic was fruitless just before the buzzer.

In OT, a layup by Love with 1:27 left broke the last of the game's eight ties. The Demons' defense forced the 22nd Bulldogs turnover, then Love's offensive rebound set the stage for Lane's decisive 3-pointer.

"We went from our three-quarters-court press to man-to-man, and they had three big turnovers," said NSU coach Mike McConathy. "That turned the game around."

Norvel joined Lane in double digits for NSU with 12 points, adding a pair of the Demons' 10 steals.

Sparked by the hot start after halftime, Northwestern sank 16 of its last 33 shots to weather a 47-34 rebounding disadvantage. The Demons, hitting 35 percent of their 3-pointers through their first five games, sank just 4 of 24 (17 percent).

"We just didn't make shots," said McConathy. "We had shots, open shots, and didn't make them. It was a tough, tough matchup. We didn't get the ball inside like we needed to do.

"But Alabama A&M is a good team, really talented, they execute and run their stuff well. It's hard to guard them, and they attacked the offensive boards. They've just played some good teams so far," he said.

The contest wrapped up both teams' involvement with the Men Against Breast Cancer Cougar Cup multi-team event. Each squad dropped contests at BYU, Rice and Houston.

The Bulldogs got 16 points and seven rebounds by Andre Kennedy but was outscored 24-12 on points off turnovers and 24-10 in bench points. All five Alabama A&M starters played at least 30 minutes, while only two Demons did, with seven more getting at least 10.

"I think our waves had a lot to do with it. We kept changing people, and (Alabama A&M) got a little tired, and that had a huge impact," said McConathy. "In the last 7-8 minutes of regulation we went with some strange combinations trying to figure who could guard and produce. John Norvel, Brandon Hutton, and Vonte Ott all came up big in that stretch and DeAndre Love made two huge plays with a basket and an offensive rebound in that last minute of OT."

NSU will play back-to-back home games for the first time on Tuesday when UL Monroe visits Prather Coliseum for a 6:30 contest.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: NSU Fall Athletes

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

As the leaves fall and the semester draws to a close, the Demon athletic family celebrates the success of its fall athletic programs. Our last athlete of the week column for the semester is dedicated to all of the fall athletes who represented our University in competition.

Under first year head coach Brad Laird, the Demon football team went 5-6 (4-5 in conference play), an improvement over the team's performance past couple of years. While off to a rocky start against Texas A&M, the Demons turned it around as the season progressed, finishing off their season by mounting an impressive second half comeback victory at Stephen F. Austin, securing the largest trophy in college football, Chief Caddo.

On a different field, the Lady Demon soccer team rounded out their season with a 10-10 record (4-7 in conference play). The Lady Demons won 7 of their 10 games in front of a home crowd, and made it all the way to the Southland Conference tournament, where they ended their season with a 2-5 loss against Central Arkansas.

Off the field and on the course, the men and women's cross country team thrived under the guidance of third year head coach Chris Sauer. With a young team mostly comprised of freshman, the teams both placed 10th in a 13 team field at the Southland Conference Championships, besting their placing from last season, and setting a foundation for future success.

On the court, the Lady Demon volleyball team went 12-15 (8-8 in conference play) winning half of their victories in front of a home crowd in Prather Stadium. The team finished out their season in the Southland Conference Tournament, losing 2-3 to Central Arkansas.

On behalf of the Current Sauce staff, I would like to congratulate all athletes on their dedication to their respective sports, and as always, fork 'em Demons.

GAME SCHEDULE

Men

SAT 12.1.18 8:00
@ EL PASO, TX
V.S. UTEP

MON 12.3.18 7:00
@COLLEGE STATION, TX
V.S. TEXAS A&M

WED 12.12.18 6:30
@LUBBOCK, TX
V.S. TEXAS TECH

Women

SUN 12.2.18 2:00
@PRATHER
V.S. UL MONROE

SAT 12.8.18 1:00
@PRATHER
V.S. CENTENARY

SUN 12.16.18 2:00
@TUSCALOOSA, AL
V.S. ALABAMA

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the Current Sauce

Bringing students the sauciest news since 1914.

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The fall 2018 graduates enjoy the end of the ceremony with a celebratory explosion of confetti.
Photo by Chris Reich.

922 students graduate during 2018 winter commencement

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

The 922 former students of Northwestern State who heard the confetti cannons fire were eager to take the next step in their life.

Winter commencement is an exiting time for faculty and graduates as the students from the preceding summer and fall semester are recognized for completing their coursework.

NSU sets the right atmosphere for the ceremony as the coliseum's lights are dimmed, the stage is lit with concert style spotlights, President Maggio states that NSU "want our graduates to have a positive experience as the enter their next phase, graduate/professional school and/or the workforce."

Maggio also gets to shake hands with every graduate. It's his favorite aspect of the ceremony because to him it's the best feeling in the world to see students accomplish their academic goals and graduate. "Often I had assisted students through struggles and challenges while attending school, and to see them finally graduate is so uplifting."

According to the Office of Institutional Research, NSU has a graduation rate of 39 percent. One of the top priorities of the University is to increase the rate by proving support services to assist students with tutoring, financial aid, along with other needs.

"We have seen an increase in our retention rates over the past couple of years and are confident that will translate into higher graduation rates as well" Maggio states.

Social Work major Stone Smith was happy to receive his degree he almost tripped walking up but couldn't resist dabbing on stage. Smith started in 2014 as a psychology major but switched during his sophomore year.

During his time at NSU, he met friends through band, learned the importance of cheering up classmates on a rough day, and meeting his fiancé.

Going forward now as a graduate, he will be taking it "one day at a time" to finish his social work license and take a well-deserved break. And most importantly "get married to my amazing fiancé and make her the happiest woman I can."



Chick-fil-A Express is expected to have its grand opening on Monday, Jan. 28.
Photo by Valentina Perez Espinoza.

Despite delays, Chick-fil-A expected to open next week

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Students will soon see the opening of the new Chick-fil-A Express, with the grand opening set to take place Monday, Jan. 28 at 9:00 a.m.

While it was originally intended to open last fall, the project has faced some delays, including the hiring of new contractors and weather.

Steve Kauf, general manager of Sodexo food services, said this is due to the project being in the process of getting inspected and approved by the health and fire departments.

Despite the setbacks, progress was made over the winter break.

"I'm so ready for Chick-fil-A to be open," said Mary Gaffney, junior.

Chick-fil-A Express will provide yet another option for students dining on the Natchitoches campus and will accept declining balance.

As an "Express," the store will lack a drive-thru and any specialty offers from main Chick-fil-A stores.

"I am so excited for Chick-fil-A because we haven't had one in Natchitoches!" said Mikala Clark, freshman. "I'm upset that it's taken so long, though."

The new restaurant is located at the Northwestern State Marketplace on University Parkway, across from Watson Library.

Natchitoches museum to host World War II exhibit

Keator Poleman
Associate Editor

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum will host an upcoming exhibit titled "The Pelican State Goes to War."

The exhibit, developed by the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, will highlight Louisiana's contribution to the war effort.

One such contribution is the Louisiana maneuvers, which were conducted in Louisiana before and during America's entry into the war.

Jenna Biddiscombe, the branch director of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum, said the opening night will be a free reception. It will last from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 1.

A performance by the Victory Belles, a 1940's style vocal trio, will perform at the opening night.

James Linn, the exhibits curator, said, "World War II provided new, previously unimaginable opportunities to Louisiana's residents."

He added that some of the other stories in the exhibit will include Clair Chennault, creator of an early warning system to help protect China's air forces against Japanese attacks and Richard English, who served in an African American battalion and later as a civil rights advocate.

The exhibit will be held on the bottom floor of the museum from Feb. 1 to March 16.

Admission is $5 for adults and $4 for seniors, students and military. Children under six get in for free.

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3 **Viewpoints:** What is the purpose of life?

4 **Sports:** Chili Cook-Off

Ask Vic

Hey Vic! The semester is just beginning and I'm having trouble knocking the dust off and getting back into school mode. Help!

When returning from a break it can be difficult to readjust. Here are some of Vic's keys to a semester of success:

Step 1. Get acquainted with your professor and don't be afraid to reach out to them. If you are taking the course face-to-face, stay after the lecture just to introduce yourself so that they can match a name with a face. If you are taking the course online, send them an email introducing yourself. Once you are acquainted with the professor it makes it easier to reach out when you are having issues with the course.

Step 2. Get acquainted with your classmates. These are the people that will be alongside you during the semester. Utilize your peers for study groups.

Step 3. Use your resources! Tutoring is offered in the library along with free scantrons. You can also get your test proctored in the library's testing center.

Step 4. Stay ahead of everything! Don't let midterms sneak up on you. The best way to finish strong is to start even stronger. Form a rhythm that you can keep up all semester.

Step 5. Remember to have fun every once in awhile! There is a lot to dive into on NSU's campus. There's an event almost every week. Remember to check the student messenger for all updates regarding campus activities.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Spirit of Northwestern at Christmas Fest



The Spirit of Northwestern marches in the annual Christmas Fest. *Photo by Hannah Pettus.*

Chamber Choir heads to Spain

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

In 2018, Northwestern's Chamber Choir was able to make their first trip overseas.

This summer, they plan on continuing their travels by competing in the 4th annual international choral competition Ave Verum in Baden/Austria.

The choir will be traveling from May 22 until June 3. They will be only one of ten international choirs competing in Ave Verum, out of the ten though, NSU's Chamber Choir will be the only American choir competing.

The competition will mostly be held in Baden where may famous composers and musicians have been known to visit or live, such as Mozart, who's famous piece "Ave Verum Corpus" was used as the name for the event.

According to their site, "All 10 choirs sing together at the end of their short programs Mozart's 'Ave verum corpus' which was first performed at the same place in 1791" as a closing to the competition.

Sarah Palmintier, a freshman soprano in Chamber Choir, says that this opportunity allows her to leave the country for her first time. "I have never been out of the country and I am so excited to travel with this awesome choir. We have been working hard to prepare for this trip. We are taking 7 pieces of music that we just received this semester, as well as 3 pieces from the fall semester."

With all this hard work though, Chamber Choir members will still be expected to pay the difference of the travel costs if they aren't able to raise the funds completely.

Palmintier says, "We are having to pay out of pocket. We have raised about $1500 in funds thru snap fundraising, but the rest we have to come up with."

On Feb. 3, though, the publixc will have an opportunity to support Chamber Choir and help offset costs by participating in their fundraiser.

This fundraising concert will be held at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church located on 411 Second Street.

Eyes of Argus:

To Die for an Idea: A Villanelle

Anna Raye Jennings

Where frailty lives with dignity
In prison cells devoid of light
The highest of humanity

Recall a time when they were free.
Imagination takes its flight
Where frailty lives with dignity.

To minds constrained by tyranny
Belief is still a sacred right.
The highest of humanity

Can grasp this concept more than we.
In chambers hidden from our sight
Where frailty lives with dignity

Their prayers become a symphony
They sing for their oncoming night.
The highest of humanity

In wretchedness and agony
Long-suffering and strength unite
Where frailty lives with dignity:
The highest of humanity.



NSYou

What are you most excited about coming back to NSU?



"Getting the semester over with."
Ajaysia Moton
Classification: Senior
Major: Child and Family Studies



"Graduating in May. It's one of my most esteemed accomplishments."
Alexis Moses
Classification: Senior
Major: Accounting and Business Administration



"Meeting new people."
Terres Anderson
Classification: Freshman
Major: Industrial Engineering



"Getting closer to graduating."
James Gullyard
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Industrial Engineering



A fireman from Natchitoches Parish District 6 rushes to the fire. *Submitted photo.*

Lights and sirens: The truth behind a thankless job

John Lee Hurt
NSU Student

Imagine a silent night. You're asleep in your bed dreaming about your family, your next fishing trip, your upcoming weekend. You're at peace. All of the sudden you spring awake to an alarm going off. It's not 6:30 and you're not at home. It's 2:30 a.m., and the loud speakers projecting the alarm is throwing a ton of information at you about a house fire or a shooting or a wreck. You're confused, but reflexes and instincts luckily kick in. It's time to go save the day.

That's a world that firemen, emergency medical technicians and paramedics know all too well. It's a world that not many people see and even less understand. In today's world, the first responders, once praised as heroes, are now forgotten. Cops use to be the strong protector you could trust with your life. Maybe you couldn't trust them with your box of doughnuts, but you could trust them with your life. They'd chase the bad guys and make the big save after the bank robbery or come at the right time to take away the abusive dad. Now, thanks to the news, cops are seen as cold-blooded killers who would rather shoot you than look at you.

To quote our president, that is fake news. A cop still does that. They'll take a bullet for you. They run towards the sound of gunfire like the Marines.

And it's almost like EMTs and paramedics are seen "taxi drivers," performing a job that Uber or Lyft can do. Yeah right. I want to see the Lyft driver and his friend come get you in the middle of the night from a dead sleep after only being out 30 minutes and give you medications to keep you alive. They won't.

They also won't climb into your totaled car to protect your neck while the firemen free you so you can walk again after you drove home drunk from the Press Box. The Uber driver won't hold your dying daughter in their arms and do their best to revive her while staying strong as she slips away. The Ambulance crew will. Then they'll go back to the station and ball their eyes out because they have a daughter or niece the same age.

We used to know that firemen would do everything from getting the cat out the tree to running into a burning house to save little Timmy. Now they're womanizers and adrenaline junkies who take pleasure in your misfortune. More fake news. Firemen are gentle giants. The hands that rip a door off the hinges to save a trapped person in a fire are the same hands that help the little ones or the elderly on a medical call.

A house fire burns at upwards of 1,100°, so it takes a lot of courage (or a lot of insanity) to rush in and save a stranger. They'll do it, though. They'll lay down their lives for you. Don't believe me? Ask the families of the 343 firemen who died on September 11, 2001. They'll proudly tell you about the ultimate sacrifice made.

First responders see the absolute worst. When they show up, someone's day is going horribly wrong. They see people at their most vulnerable times when everything is falling apart. An unwritten part of their job description is to walk into your personal hell and pick the pieces up and put them back together.

Seeing people at their worst leads to the worst over time. According to USA Today, in 2017, more police officers and firemen died of suicide than they did line-of-duty deaths. More cops are taking their own life than bad guys are. More firemen are killing themselves than those dying in a fire. The Journal of Emergency Medical Services surveyed 4,000 first responders and 6.6% attempted suicide. That is 10 times more than the general population.

We have to do something as a society to correct the stigmas that have been placed on these heroes. If we don't, there may not be any heroes left.

What is the purpose of life?

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

What are we doing here and where are we going after here? It's almost like we just woke up one morning and boom, its welcome to the show. We go through our lives making as much money as we can, and we try our best not to let ourselves get broke. We copy everything we see on TV, head to toe, and when we get confused, we just turn up the radio.

However, we should pause for a minute and ask ourselves: Who created us? What is the object of our existence?

This question is so complex, in fact, that it has perplexed some of the greatest minds in history. Take for instance Albert Einstein, in his collection of essays and ideas titled "The World As I See It." He pondered the question: "What is the meaning of human life, or, for that matter, of the life of any creature?"

Some people argue that we don't have a purpose, or that we are simply here for personal enjoyment. However, think about it for a second.

The intricate creation of ourselves from our heads down to our very fingertips is something quite profound and amazing, to say the least. It couldn't be that this was designed without an agenda a cause or a purpose.

Just look at the sky one day and acknowledge the flawless end to end. That in itself is enough to put you in awe of the creative power of the creator, God.

Before I give my answer, I want to address the fact that many cultures and religions around the world have different answers to this question. I was brought up in Nigeria where everything is scarce and limited, and I am also a Muslim. These two things are the big influencers of my answer.

Gratitude is the purpose of our creation. Let me explain.

One thing all humans share across the globe is a common sense of decency. So, when we realize there is a creator and we realize he created us in such a powerful way and has given us abilities that other creatures don't have. He has given all these faculties, not just the physical ones, which are amazing enough, but also many other things.

And we have everything around us that supports our survival. Water, the air we breathe or the trees around us. There is absolutely no denial that we have been poured upon from all kinds of direction with many favors.

So, the very least we could do during our time on earth is to say thank you.

Welcome to the new year, Demons

Trinity Valesquez
Viewpoints Editor

It might be just me, but I was really excited to come back to campus.

The last 2 weeks of break were just my parents getting on my nerves and me missing my apartment since I was staying in my parents' guest room. Another thing I was tired of was people asking me what my New Year resolution would be. I felt like I kept repeating myself when I said that I didn't want to make one. I don't understand why people were so shocked, it's not like I was denouncing Christ or something.

I think New Year's resolutions are unnecessary and a waste of time, kind of like the core classes students have to take in their first two years (but that's an article for another time). Why set a goal to get toned, spend a ton of money on protein powder and expensive vitamins just for them to sit in your pantry unopened because you tell yourself that you're going to the gym during the weekend when all of a sudden you realize that it's Sunday morning and you're surrounded by empty bags of potato chips from Friday night.

People forget their resolutions in like a month and it's pretty scary of how quick we give our goal and move on to the next best thing. Our attentions span is shorter than Donald Trump's staff in the White House.

I say that if a person wants to make a goal that they wouldn't normally do, then start with something small like picking up that messy pile of clothes on your bedroom floor and folding them to put them away. Or maybe throwing out all those pictures of your ex that you hung up on your wall with a clothespin and fairy lights.

While you're at it, throw out those old t-shirts and caps that you think you're saving for sweet memories but it actually looks like you're a hoarder. Let your New Year's resolution be to stop being so toxic and figure out what you're doing to hurt others instead of just thinking that everyone is hurting you.

If I were to set a New Year's resolution for everyone, it would be inspired by what's happening in the world today, don't be an ass. But that's unbelievable, just like the thought of Mexico paying for a wall or Elizabeth Warren running for president.

Hopefully this year is better than last year and we learn and grow with one another in love. I still think New Year's resolutions are dumb but I know that this year won't be. Good luck with this new year, Demons, Lord knows we need it.

GAME SCHEDULE

Wed 1.23.19
6:30PM
Men's Basketball
vs Sam Houston

Sat 1.26.19
1-5:00PM
Men & Women's
Basketball vs
SELU

Wed 1.30.19
6:30PM
Women's Basket-
ball vs UNO

Athlete of the Week: Chaney Dodge



Chaney Dodge runs the bases after hitting the ball. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

From the time he picked up his first bat at the age of two, Chaney Dodge has always swung for the fences.

Raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, the Houston native began competing in organized baseball at an early age.

Until his freshman year of high school, his father was his coach, and it is him that Chaney attributes with much of his competitive success.

"The lessons that my Dad taught me transcended the sport. He taught me how to be a man," said Dodge. "In retrospect, all the times I thought he was being hard on me, I see now that he was preparing me to deal with life. For that, I'm very thankful."

Under the guidance of Teurling Catholic head coach Mike Thibodeaux, Dodge developed into one of Louisiana's top scouting prospects, leading the Rebels to a 28-9 record his junior season and a state semifinals trip. Exploding into his senior season, Dodge led the Rebels to a state championship, a 35-4 record and a No. 7 national ranking, according to Max Preps.

Juggling offers from several D1 institutions in the region, Dodge was weighing his options until he came to Natchitoches and toured the Demon facilities.

"I came on my visit here, and I fell in love. The coaches treated me with top-notch respect, I liked what they had going and their plans for the future," said Dodge.

After redshirting his freshman year, Dodge travelled to New York and competed for the Westhampton Aviators of the Hampton League, batting .307 with 3 home runs and 14 RBIs over 28 games.

As the 2019 season comes into full swing for the Demons, Dodge hopes to take his experience, coupled with a young team, all the way.

"I think of us as a bunch of dogs in a cage, just waiting. A bunch of over-looked guys, a bunch of guys who didn't get an opportunity to go to 'bigger and better' schools", said Dodge. "We don't set a low standard. Going into the season last year, we did some big things. We were sure we could do it, yet other people weren't. We won the Southland Conference Tournament, and made it to Regionals in Oregon. This year, we're shooting for it all. We're not a team that's trying to prove others wrong, we're a team trying to prove ourselves right here."

As for the future, Dodge wishes to follow baseball as far as it will take him.

"It's always been a dream of mine. I'm not going to give it up, as long as I can, you know?"

As a Psychology major with a Pre-Law minor, he has the plan of eventually becoming a lawyer. Ultimately, he one day hopes to own his own training facility, and to train athletes to be the very best they can in their respective sports.

Southeastern doubleheader to include chili cook-off at conference

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

On Saturday, Jan. 26, Northwestern State University will be hosting a Southland Conference doubleheader against Southeastern. The Lady Demons will be playing at 1 p.m., and the Demons' later at 3 p.m.

This Saturday, between the games, will be a chili cook-off where participating teams, businesses and members of the community come together to compete for a variety of awards. The chili will be distributed to the fans attending the doubleheader.

"Teams 'Battle for the Paddle'—a chili paddle—for the judges award, and two years ago we added a ridiculous homemade trophy for the People's Choice Award, which is the best chili as voted on by the fans attending. If you've never been to a game at Prather, this is 100 % the best one to attend." says assistant AD and chili cook-off coordinator, Michael Jacklick.

"The game against Southeastern, because it's an in-state school, is an especially appealing matchup for both our women's and men's teams," said Assistant Athlete Director Doug Ireland.

"You have to bring the intensity early, play hard, play smart. The difference in the game can happen at any point so you've got to be at your best every possession. Playing at home is a big advantage for us, with our student section, the band, the cheerleaders and dance line, and our fans giving us energy and encouragement," said sophomore point guard C.J. Jones, now in his second year with the Demons.

"We have to focus on us. The biggest key for us is to execute what we have and focus on ourselves as a team, execute our strengths to the best of our ability. We have to focus on each other and come together as a team," said Sami Thomas, a fifth-year senior at NSU.

Thomas redshirted the 2017-18 season after as knee injury the February of her junior year. As of January 14, 2019, the men's basketball team are 7-10 overall, and 2-2 in conference play. The Lady Demons have a 6-9 record overall, and 1-3 Southland Conference record.



Gabby Bell and Jocelyn Scott block a UNO player from passing the ball.
Photo by Chris Reich.

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SGA's 'Leadership NSU' conference to be held in Student Union

Trinity Valezquez
Viewpoints Editor

The Student Government Association will be hosting a two-day conference called Leadership NSU: Back 2 the Basics on Feb. 1 and 2 in the Student Union Ballroom.

"Leadership NSU is a professional leadership conference that the Student Government Association partners with several different organizations to put on for our students," said student body president Jacob Ellis. Student Activities Board, Campus Living Villages, and First Year Experience also contribute and provide support.

"The Leadership NSU committee is made up of representatives from all types of organizations on campus," Ellis said. He said he's hoping for 200-300 students to attend.

Elizabeth Coleman, Academic Affairs Commissioner and head of the Leadership NSU committee said that students will be participating in interactive sessions where the guest speakers discuss topics from how to build your resume to how to successful be a leader in your organization. She said that returning speakers include Dr. Lori Heart, T.J. Sullivan and Dave Kelly.

"T.J. Sullivan talks about motivating the middle, which is motivating people that maybe aren't doing as much as they could but aren't against something," Ellis said. "The Counseling and Career Center are doing a career component such as resume building. We're allowing faculty to come in and teach some sessions. There are people that represent Greek life, we have all kinds of speakers for all kinds of different topics."

If a student really wants to learn how to be a leader, the workshops that Ellis recommends are Parliamentary Procedures with Dave Kelly. He also encourages students to talk to speakers and ask questions at the end.

Sophomore Quanjerika Smiley said she is excited about being involved on campus. "I don't know what to expect, so I'm hoping to meet new people and become more involved." Last year's Leadership NSU was themed Action to Apathy, and Coleman went last year as Ellis was Academic Affairs Commissioner.

"Last year, Jacob Ellis allowed me to serve as a Student at Large Coordinator. This gave me much experience on how to make a plan and execute it," Coleman said. "I was able to attend a few of the sessions and thoroughly enjoyed what they had to offer."

Last year's conference was successful because of good speakers, and both Ellis and Coleman agree that last year was a learning experience for them both.

The theme "Back 2 the Basics" was chosen to help students learn what it takes to run an organization and learn the basics of being successful. The conference is entirely free to any student on NSU's campus which makes it an easy opportunity for students to attend.

Coleman says she is most excited for the new speakers.

"Especially the career component we are adding! Because of this new session, we are able to reach out to more students!" she said. "I have gone every year since I started, and my freshman year was cool because I saw and learned a lot. It was cool seeing it from the student perspective and then being able to plan it."



Senior Jourdan Waddell performs a dance for the talent division of the Lady of the Bracelet pageant. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Lady of the Bracelet Jourdan Waddell to host philanthropic dance competition

Lauren Briscoe
Contributing Writer

Demons, get your dancing shoes ready! On Feb. 1 at 6 p.m., Northwestern State University's Lady of the Bracelet, Jourdan Waddell, will be holding a philanthropic event, "Stompin' the Mental Health Stigma," a dance competition that hopes to shed light on mental health issues.

The event will help raise funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the official philanthropy of Miss America, which Lady of the Bracelet strives to compete at. Comedian Adam Grabowski is set to attend the event to speak on mental health in a lighthearted, open way.

"Masters of Ceremony will be split between me and Adam Grabowski," Waddell said of her plans for the evening. "Also, our dancing duos that are competing are up to win a scholarship for this semester."

Waddell chose to use her platform to advocate for mental health as the issue hits home for her.

"I've struggled with anxiety since I was a little kid. I want to have this platform to educate people about resources that there are to find help—you're not a burden," states Waddell.

The Student Activities Board is teaming up with Jourdan for the event.

"We want [students] to come and know they can talk about these feelings they are having," SAB Coordinator Yonna Pasch said. "There are resources in Natchitoches, and we want them to know that outlets do exist."

Along with the dance competition, the event will also showcase a "rainboot decorating station." These boots will be filled with change, which will be delivered to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

"It's really cool for me to see other students leading on campus," says Student Government Association President Jacob Ellis. "What makes your college experience so rewarding is being able to hold these roles of responsibilities, they help to shape you into a successful person once you graduate."

This event is not one to miss! Come out and support our 61st Lady of the Bracelet and her pursuit to raise money and awareness for both mental health and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.



Undergraduate Logan Turner discusses his thesis on the comparison of stress levels between different demographics. *Photo by Victoria Perkins.*

Scholars' student's thesis chosen for presentation at conference

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Logan Turner, a senior in the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University, has received an exciting opportunity.

Before graduation, students in the scholar's college must prepare a thesis. Turner's thesis has been selected to be presented at the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, at the end of March.

Turner chose to write his thesis about minorities such as LGBTQ individuals. He mentioned the theory that minorities face higher levels of stress than people who are not minorities.

Turner's thesis explores whether there is a link between minorities being stressed and them turning to destructive coping mechanisms.

"An aspect of that is this idea that if you don't have a good support system or coping mechanisms, it leads to you not being able to deal with stress in a positive way," Turner said.

In the fall, Turner constructed a survey to send to the psychology department at NSU.

His survey received 479 responses, giving him a substantial amount of data to use as support for his thesis. Turner also had the help of two thesis advisors overlooking his work.

"At his core, Logan Turner is a champion and advocate," Director of Louisiana Scholars' College Kirsten Bartels said. "He draws on his passion to motivate himself and to inspire others."

Dr. Maggio, president of NSU, said that NSU is supportive of the research undergraduates at Louisiana Scholar's College conduct.

"It's important for students to be able to share that information," Maggio said. Turner is continuing to prepare for his thesis being presented at the upcoming conference. "It was really cool that mine got accepted. I was really nervous about it," Turner said.

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Have an opinion to share?
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3 **Viewpoints:** We all have the right to life

4 **Sports:** Athlete of the Week: Judit Castillo Gargallo

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! It's the third week of the semester and I am still having trouble making friends. Please help!

A Hey guys. Making friends can be tough at first, especially if you are shy. Some things to remember:

1. Don't be afraid to speak up. It can be scary at first when you are away from home and forced to fend for yourself, but you have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone.

2. Find people who share your interests. If you like to work out, try hitting the WRAC to find workout partners. If your interest is video games, connect with our Gamer's Guild who meet in the Student Union on Thursdays. The Baptist Collegiate Ministry meets up every Wednesday and are always putting on events. There are many more clubs that be found on OrgSync and they are always preparing events and opportunities for you to meet new people.

3. You have to leave the dorm room! None of this is possible unless you first step outside. Usually you can find people in the Student Union, Iberville Cafeteria, the Grill or Vic's! Around lunch time those are hot spots and the best way to meet people.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Eyes of Argus:

COMPUTER, CONSTRUCTION, AND CARDSTOCK

Randa Lopez

there is something so simple, so freeing,
so exhilarating
about a new clean sheet of paper
it has so much potential
and is so essential
to the monumental things in life:
our birth dates, finger paints, first dates,
"do you like me? yes or no?"
grades, diplomas, insurance,
weddings, divorces, and toe tags
it is declarations of war, love, independence,
and thesis
it is the carrier of religion and the holder of
truths and ideals
a new sheet of paper can be anything it wants
to be
it is malleable and mobile
paper is planes, cranes, and snowflakes
it is stories and adventures recorded and
unimagined
paper is you and me and every other living
thing
paper is man's best friend and keeper of
history
it is crowns and news
champions against stains and lipstick prints
with phone numbers
poetry about life and love written on menus
paper is the battlegrounds for communication
paper, humanity's catalyst for creation

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's poem collection "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.



Chick-fil-A was so busy at times Monday that the line went outside. *Photo by Jacob Bennett.*

NSU officials celebrate Chick-fil-A's opening day

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

The constant chatter of hyped-up college students, so loud you can barely hear yourself think. Heat permeating the air from the number of people packed into such a small area. You may think I'm describing a night at the Pressbox, but this was NSU's new Chick-fil-A Express on opening day.

This Chick-fil-A resides in Northwestern State Marketplace, a combined building with a recently relocated bookstore. There were dozens of students outside the building Monday at 9 a.m., impatiently waiting for the giant ribbon to be cut. It was written all over their faces. They didn't want to hear the speeches from the people that made this happen—they just wanted to eat.

Together, familiar faces from NSU leadership stepped forward for a picture. Director of Auxiliary Services Jennifer Kelly cut the ribbon. The students clapped. And when the doors were opened, they swarmed in like a flood.

"It's good to finally see all the hard work pay off, you know?" said junior Aaron Murray. "It's the Lord's chicken."

"I'm just happy to see it here, honestly. It gives the students more options," said junior Chasity Glasspoole. They were both standing in line.

Chick-fil-A's opening is a personal accomplishment for NSU President Chris Maggio.

"It means a lot to me because it means a lot to the students," Maggio said. "What makes me happy is we were able to deliver it for our students. We hope they enjoy it. We hope it complements our Café DeMon that's across the street, the new academic center, the advisors and things we have in the library. We hope it's just another piece in the puzzle for a brighter and brighter Northwestern State University."

According to Maggio, this was a completely student-driven effort. When asked what they wanted on campus, "nine out of 10 students" asked for a Chick-fil-A.

"It's really cool to see the university listen to its students about what we want," said Student Government Association Jacob Ellis. "I'm super excited because it's something new that really boosts the student experience, in my opinion."

Chick-fil-A General Manager Meoshae Ragster estimated there were 800 customers on the first day, though Senior Leader Mariah Fife thought it was closer to 900.

But as excited as many students may be to get their Spicy Chicken Deluxe, not all students are pleased by the decision.

Some, citing the chain's troubling record on LGBTQ+ rights, wish another restaurant had been chosen.

"I feel like it's really important that the school get more food options but I'm disappointed in the option they chose," said junior Lance Duhe, who is taking all of his classes online this semester. "They had so many options to pick from and they chose the most hateful fast food place available."

Another point of contention remains in the form of University Parkway, a highway between the restaurant and campus. There have been concerns about the safety of the store's location as the students will have to cross the highway to get there.

"I would like to see that people who are crossing the road to go to eat, that they are monitoring traffic and they're not distracted by cell phones or anything like that," said Captain Wesley Harrell with the NSU campus police. He noted that the police will be monitoring the area to "make sure everyone's safe."

Columns Café opens its doors, plans for spring semester

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

The school of Culinary Art and Hospitality Management & Tourism (HMT) at Northwestern State University launched a new fine dining experience called Columns Café last semester. Columns café kicked off with the first dinner service at the end of Fall 2018. It is completely student-run as it was designed to provide experiential learning to the HMT student.

"Through this program, they are going to have valuable skills and have valuable experience that prepares them for their carrier after they graduate," Valerie Salter, assistant professor at the school of HMT, said about her students. Starting this semester, lunch and dinner will be added to the Column Café.

"We are offering four lunch services this semester," Salter said. "People can come and sit down at 11 o'clock or 11:30 for those services. Dinner will begin at 6 o'clock."

These dinner services will be centered around different themes: "Some of the themes we will include are Italian, Mardi Gras, Spanish and Greek," Salter said.

John Carrier, the new certified executive chef is full of momentum and hope for the New Café.

"This will be a really good experience for the students," Carrier said. "Especially because they don't have access to fine dining around here, so they will get a chance to experience how [it] works before they graduate."

Columns Café "teaches the students about teamwork and professional services and food production. All this is transferable to any field they chose in the hospitality industry," Salter said.

"With our degree employees always require experience. So, I have asked myself how I'm I going to have experience being a waiter. With Columns Café, it has really opened up the opportunity to get experience doing what we learn in class."

Tickets to the café can be purchased at https://hmt.nsula.edu.



Magale Recital Hall hosts French horn player



This is Thompson's first time performing in Louisiana. *Submitted photo.*

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Guest artist Timothy F. Thompson showed off his skills with the French horn at the Magale Recital Hall on Jan. 23.

Dr. Thompson is a professor from the University of Arkansas since 1979 and a soloist for the French horn. The recital consisted of traditional pieces, cultural pieces, along with additional pieces provided by his own colleague Randall Faust.

Thompson held a master class the following day that was open to the public, where he showed off other pieces that were not played during the concert and taught some extended techniques to CAPA students on the French horn.

His way of teaching the Horn came from lessons he learned from acting workshops in High School. During the class he spoke about how playing unaccompanied was very similar to reciting a monologue.

"It's hard to describe without writing a book about it, but I've learned from artist, actors, cellist, and sopranos." Thompson said. "As a teacher you have to analyze your students and figure out what they react to best."

There are challenges that come with being an unaccompanied musician, but they outweigh the benefit of having a unique play style.

"You got no one to blame it on, you don't have rest, it's more physically stressful, but at the same time there's the beauty of having you own say in the music and being able to control it," Thompson said.

Dr. Thompson has toured across the United States, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Thailand and Europe. It's his favorite part about his job. "Traveling, eating good food, and meeting new people is more of why I do this than playing itself."

This was his first time playing in Louisiana, and he thought very fondly of Natchitoches. "I'm already planning a vacation down here, it's very beautiful!"

NSYou

What do you wish you knew before coming to NSU?



"I wish I knew more about Varnado Hall and how it will better me as a musician by being there."

Zachary Johnson
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Music Business



"I wish I knew that parking was so limited, and that at times you have to show up 30+ minutes early to get a spot. Especially at CAPA. Best thing you can do is park and walk everywhere."

Kasey Dice
Classification: Junior
Major: Music Education



"I wish I knew how poorly NSU handles financial situations. I would have wanted to know more about scholarship opportunities and more ways to get involved on campus. I wish I had also known the bias that NSU has for their sports teams. Especially the football team."

Jontil Benson
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Criminal Justice



"I wish I knew that I could adopt the animals I worked with. I would have had more time to prepare myself for resisting adopting every dog I meet."

Lauren Breaux
Classification: Junior
Major: Biology, Vet Tech

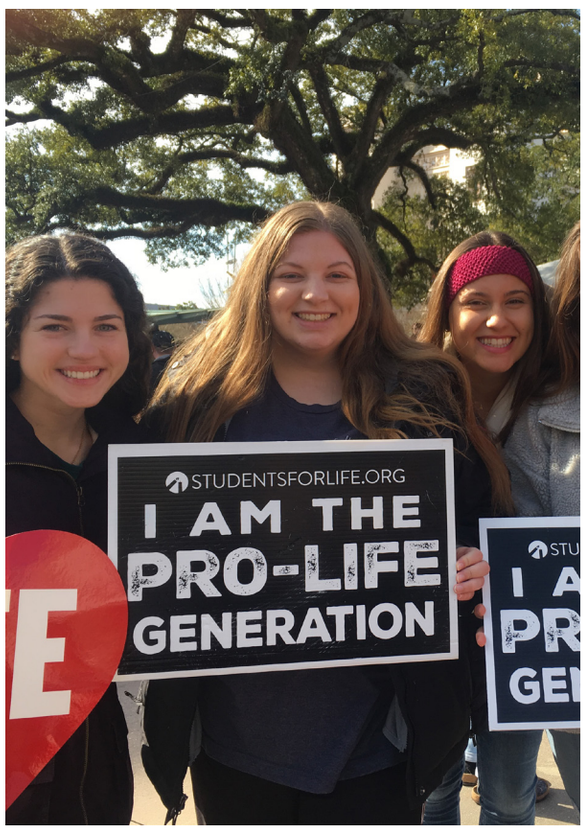
We all have the right to life

Jennifer Doiron
Contributing Writer

Year after year, millions of innocent lives are eradicated on the grounds of a woman's right to privacy. This past weekend, I had the privilege of protesting this atrocity at the Baton Rouge March for Life. Surrounded by scores of baby lovers, we started at the state capitol and proceeded confidently through town with signs and prayers. The March for Life is an inspiring event because it unites us all, regardless of anyone's political or religious affiliation. Catholics, Protestants and atheists walk hand-in-hand to support one agreeable cause.

There are quite a few arguments against the formerly entitled right to life. One is that when the baby is not fully formed, it is simply a clump of cells. I'm here to say that if it is simply a "clump of cells," then there's no reason to even schedule an abortion because there wouldn't be anything living in a woman's womb to abort in the first place.

Another argument is that some pro-choice people don't actually think abortion is okay, but they are pro-choice because they don't think it's right to tell a woman what to do with her body. Here's why this argument doesn't make sense: Let's say you are casually walking by when you see someone with a gun about to shoot another person. You don't agree with murder, but you don't want to get involved because you feel it's not your place. Subsequently, you allow this murder to happen even though



Jennifer Doiron and LSU friends attend the Baton Rouge March for Life. *Submitted photo.*

you know that it was clearly wrong. That's basically what this argument is. The only difference is that when it comes to abortion, the murder is happening within the womb.

The final argument I'm bringing up is that people say it's okay to abort a baby when the mother goes through rape, as she'll have to raise it alone or struggle financially. Although rape is definitely a traumatizing life experience that no one deserves, the expectant mother could still choose to have the child and put it up for adoption. There are couples out there who have been trying for years and would throw themselves at the mother's feet to have a child to call their own. The process is long, but adoption is definitely an option.

This goes for all the other problems and arguments as well. There is always the opportunity to choose life because even though all the mother can do is give birth to her baby, someone else will be willing to raise it.

Since the ruling of Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22, 1973, over 1.5 billion innocent lives have been obliterated in an epic genocide due to failed cognitive reasoning. Thomas Jefferson once said, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government."

Thanks to our government, over two thousand babies have already been aborted in January 2019 alone. Hopefully, 2019 will be a year of hope for women who are thinking about having an abortion. No matter what the circumstances are in our lives, every unborn child has the right to life, and it is not up to us to end it. Rather, it is our duty to celebrate and value every life as a precious gift to mankind.

DEMON DEBATES

Should NSU keep the Chief Caddo tradition alive?

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Tradition is tradition, simple as that. NSU should keep the statue because it's part of our history.

I say keeping the statue and the American Indian is what makes the Battle for Chief Caddo so interesting. It's different and students seem to love it.

Changing the tradition or getting rid of it all together just erases a part of NSU.

Tradition creates a sense of comfort and brings families together. The Battle for Chief Caddo, the Ghost of Isabella, Color Chaos—these are all a part of what makes NSU's students so involved.

We aren't diminishing the American Indian Chief, we are celebrating him. Chief Caddo was responsible for settling the locations that we are in today. If we change the statue or get rid of it completely, we are erasing the importance of Chief Caddo. That would be an insult to his legacy and to the teams that play to win this statue.

Besides, the statue that we currently hold isn't the original. It's been refurbished so many times to ensure that Chief Caddo is always in pristine condition. NSU and Stephen F. Austin may be predominately white, but our students are diverse. One of the things that unites us is this great statue, and for that it should stay for years to come.

Brianna Fife
Designer

The traditional rivalry between Natchitoches and Nacogdoches goes back to the story of Chief Caddo. Caddo lived on the Sabine river with his two sons. He sent his two sons off to find land to live on, and that is supposedly how Natchitoches and Nacogdoches came to be.

Now, the two major universities of these towns, Northwestern State University and Stephen F. Austin, battle for the trophy that is Chief Caddo. Chief Caddo is a statue that is made to look like a stereotypical Native American chief.

I come from a high school that is extremely competitive when it comes to sports, so I love the idea of competing for a trophy every year against your main rival. However, it is a problem when it is two predominantly white schools fighting over a minority, especially a Native American.

That is why I believe we should keep the tradition of competing for a trophy, but the trophy could be something else such as a spear or maybe even an actual trophy that is not offensive to an entire race of people.

Keator Polemon
Associate Editor

I know what some of you may be thinking. "Why are we talking about Chief Caddo? He isn't racist, he's just a tradition."

You're right. It is a tradition, but some traditions ought to be changed.

For those of you who don't know, every year Northwestern State University and Stephen F. Austin compete over a statue American Indian—Chief Caddo—in a football game. This is to symbolize the tradition that two Native American brothers, Natchitoches and Nacogdoches, were told to travel in different directions and set up tribes.

By continuing this tradition, we desensitize ourselves to the problems the Native population face. Our campus claims to be open and welcoming to all people, but are we really?

We like to pat ourselves on the back when we make accomplishments, but we aren't ready to criticize our downfaults.

I'm from Natchitoches, so I grew up hearing the story of Chief Caddo. It's easy to overlook racial issues when it isn't affecting you.

As a white person, I will never understand the issues people of color have to face. Not to sound cliché, but I think it's time to check our privilege and move on from the Chief.

NSU's partnership with Chick-fil-A is a slap in the face to LGBTQ+ students



Elliot Davis
NSU Student, Vice President of PRIDE

NSU's decision to reach out to Chick-fil-A and invite them to bring a location on campus is by no means surprising, but it is disappointing. The restaurant's history of supporting anti-LGBTQ+ organizations is well known. The controversy surrounding it is far from dead and buried.

Though they've tried to back off from their anti-marriage equality stance since 2012, the company's tax-exempt foundation has continued to donate millions of dollars to anti-queer organizations.

And though the company has promised to "treat every person with honor, dignity and respect--regardless of their beliefs, race, creed, sexual orientation and gender," this message is nothing more than empty words. The company has refused to back them up with any kind of non-discrimination policy that includes LGBTQ+ individuals, receiving a score of 0 from the Human Rights Campaign for their lack of LGBTQ+-inclusive policies.

Entering into a business relationship with a company that continues to undermine the goal of queer equality demonstrates where NSU's priorities lie. It certainly isn't with the well-being of their queer students and staff members.

The university made no attempt to reach out to us or to hear the concerns of our community when they made the decision as to which restaurant they wanted to bring on campus. Last year saw other universities stand with their marginalized students and reject Chick-fil-A as their retail partner, making NSU's decision to do the very opposite all the more striking.

Louisiana continues to be a battleground for LGBTQ+ rights. Queer people can be and are fired just for being queer; in only two cities, not including Natchitoches, are we a protected class.

In 2017, the Louisiana Senate voted down legislation that would have extended the already-existing ban on workplace discrimination to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Just last year, the Louisiana Supreme Court nullified an executive order that had banned companies contracting with the state from discriminating against queer employees.

In a political climate where our human rights are constantly under attack, NSU's failure to support us in that battle does not go unnoticed by those of us it affects. The partnership with Chick-fil-A is just another slap in the face.

GAME SCHEDULE

Men

1/30/19 7:00 p.m.
@ new orleans
v.s. uno

2/2/19 4:00 p.m.
@conway, arkansas
v.s. uca

2/6/19 7:00 p.m.
@prather coliseum
v.s. uno

Women

1/30/19 6:30 p.m.
@ prather coliseum
v.s. uno

2/2/19 2:00 p.m.
@conway, arkansas
v.s. uca

2/6/19 7:00 p.m.
@new orleans
v.s. uno

NSU Cheer places at UCA Nationals in Orlando



The NSU cheer squad competed at the UCA Nationals from Jan. 17-21 at a Disney park in Orlando, Florida. They placed 4th amongst all D1 schools that attended. Vic the Demon took 2nd place in the open mascot division. "It can be nerve racking when you have two and half minutes to make an impression," senior Annalise Austin said. "If things go wrong, there isn't time to change or fix it," Austin continued. *Submitted photo.*

Athlete of the Week: Judit Castillo Gargallo



Judit Castillo Gargallo swings her racquet to hit the ball in time. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Samantha Clark
Copy Editor

The swinging of the racquets on a crisp afternoon. Training in the weight room after a long day of classes. Improving on skills and techniques to apply during matches. All of these things are ingredients that will lead to a successful tennis season.

After a highly successful 2018 season on and off the court, Judit Castillo Gargallo begins her third spring season with the Northwestern State Lady Demons tennis team, whose home opener is Saturday at the Jack Fisher Tennis Complex. NSU will host UL Lafayette on Saturday at 10 a.m., Jackson State University at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, and LSU Alexandria at 2 Sunday afternoon.

She was 9-2 in conference play, an All-Southland Conference Second-Team Singles selection, on the Southland Conference Commissioner's Spring Honor Roll and on the Southland Conference Women's Tennis All-Academic Second Team. The Lady Demons placed second in the Southland Conference tournament.

Although she thrives on the tennis court, her athletic beginnings were not with tennis. She played soccer and ran for track and field and cross country before picking up a racquet at the age of 12. Her dad started playing tennis with her, but there was nowhere to play in her hometown, Teruel, Spain. The closest city to practice in was an hour and a half away in Valencia, so her dad drove her there to practice for three years.

Once she turned fifteen, her family thought it would be a good idea for her to move in with her sister who was studying in college in Valencia. "When I moved to Valencia, I left people and experiences back in Teruel," Castillo Gargalo said. "However, I knew that the best was yet to come. I met wonderful people in Valencia, I fell in love with the city and I was able to do what I liked the most, playing tennis, almost every day."

During her second year living in Valencia, she was thinking of applying to the University in Valencia and working as a tennis coach. Unfortunately, there is no opportunity for students to play sports at the collegiate level and study simultaneously in Spain, and she knew that would be the end of her tennis career. Coming to the United States would give her the opportunity to continue doing what she loves while furthering her education, and she loves it.

Multiple colleges showed interest in her such as Montana State, Miami University in Ohio, and University of Louisiana at Monroe, but it was Northwestern State University that won her over.

"After I talked to the head tennis coach for the first time I just felt that there was something special on the atmosphere at NSU," Castillo Gargalo said. "It seemed to be a place where people were kind, passionate, attentive, generous, supportive, and had lots of positivity."

After coming so close to a conference title last season, she believes that they have a real chance to win the title this season. She said that the tournament is not won the day of the game but in each practice. As long as the team continues to work hard, push each other in every practice, and support and care for each other, they will do great this season.

"Since I started playing tennis, my life turned 180 degrees around. Everything was happening very fast, and everything was because of tennis," Castillo Gargalo said. "Tennis has given me people, experiences, places, education, respect, adversity and overcoming, languages and personality. Throughout tennis, I have discovered a whole new world, and I just realized that is not tennis what is part of my life. It is that I have this life, in huge part, because of tennis."

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Happy Black History Month from The Current Sauce!

Tré Nelson still has things to say



Working for Sigma Nu Fraternity has taken Nelson all over the Southeastern United States. *Submitted photo.*

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

"Sorry, I was lighting a cigar."

Otha Tré Nelson III—he goes by his middle name—coughs, assumedly from the smoke. He's home for the week of Thanksgiving in his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and managed to find the time to schedule in a phone call.

It is 10 a.m. on the Monday before, and he's starting his day with a mimosa in addition to his cigar. He's as happy as can be.

After graduating Northwestern State University Scholars' College in May 2018 with a Liberal Arts degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Nelson went on to work for Sigma Nu Fraternity's national organization. He serves as a Southeast Leadership Consultant, with a particular focus on recruiting and branding.

The new job has brought him all over the southeastern United States, from Oxford, Mississippi to Athens, Georgia, to Washington, D.C. Perhaps it's just the time off from work or the being back home, but today Nelson doesn't seem too keen on talking about his job. His mind is still on NSU, as well as his career goals down the line—where he's going and where he's been.

Becoming a Demon

"I picked NSU because of my mentor, honestly, Mr. Ted Jones," says Nelson. Jones is an NSU alumni who eventually became a lobbyist, "influencing politics and a lot of Louisiana government." When he first visited NSU, Nelson liked the campus, but wasn't sold on pursuing his degree there.

"Mr. Ted really sold me on the opportunities that they have at the school," says Nelson. "He really sold me on the family values there.

"And let me tell you something, man," Nelson says, audibly getting more excited. "I have zero regrets about my time at NSU. I've been so fortunate and blessed to be able to go to that school."

"If I could change one thing, it's that I want to bring the black and white communities together more on campus."

Nelson served in a number of roles on campus during his time here, from Mr. NSU to president of the Student Government Association to president of the Mu Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. He even served as a Freshman Connector the summer between his freshman and sophomore years; he was the leader of the team I was assigned to in the summer of 2015.

"I was a nobody when I came to NSU," Nelson says. "I said, 'You know what? When I make a name for myself at this school, I'm going to make it better for the next guy who comes through who feels like a nobody.' That was one of my main goals."

Nelson says he truly felt that this goal came to life when he was visited by a younger student who told him he looked up to him and wanted to follow in his footsteps. And that student wasn't the only one impressed with Nelson's leadership.

"I feel that Tre opened doors for students that normally would not have certain opportunities," says sitting SGA President Jacob Ellis, Nelson's successor.

Continued on page 2

Have an opinion to share?
Put a fork in our inbox.

Submit your piece to
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"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr.

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“Opportunities are literally falling out of the sky. You’ve just got to have your bag packed.”

Continued from front page

“He always made sure to listen to what students had to say.”

But Nelson isn’t oblivious to the very real struggles that exist on campus. The conversation soon took a surprising turn from NSU’s exceptionalism to NSU’s elephant in the room.

“There’s a very interesting cultural dynamic at NSU,” Nelson says, beginning his TED Talk. He notes the university’s diverse array of students who came from all over the Southwest: from the rural small towns of north Louisiana to the city folk of Baton Rouge, New Orleans or even Dallas. “You have all these people coming together, but as a result, I think there’s a disconnect between the black community and the white community and some of the different organizations on campus.

“And this year’s homecoming elections were a perfect example of some of the ramifications of having a disconnected community.”

Oh boy.

Use Your Voice

For both the homecoming king and queen elections and the Mr. and Mrs. NSU elections, a black man and a white woman were elected: Char’Tarian Wilson and Rebekah Aultman, and Antavious Roberts and Mallory McConathy, respectively. Roberts won after a run-off election with Freshman Connector and Kappa Sigma Fraternity member Rowdy Burleson.

While no one I interviewed accused anyone else of racism in the elections, there was an acknowledgment of such accusations floating around campus.

“I think everyone who was elected on the homecoming court or Mr. or Mrs. NSU were well-deserving demons,” Homecoming Queen Rebekah Aultman says. “We have to create the culture we want to last. It’s up to us as students. We can’t control what other people say or do, but how we as individuals react can create those small changes that lead to a bigger change.”

Ellis echoed that sentiment.

“The best tool that we have to have is our voices,” Ellis says. “We as a student body need to come together, lift each other up, and listen to one another.”

Nelson noted the importance of building the bridges that make such university-wide unity possible.

“People interact with each other, but you’d be a fool to say different organizations aren’t divided,” Nelson says. “As a result, there’s this lack of understanding that creates this Us vs. Them mentality.

“If I could change one thing—and this is something I want to continue to work on from the alumni perspective—it’s that I want to bring the black and white communities together more on campus.”

Nelson noted a recent party that was thrown by Sigma Nu in conjunction with Alpha Phi Alpha as a step in the right direction.

“Some can say a party is trivial, but it had a lasting impact,” Nelson says. “The possibilities are endless.”

Onward

Endless, indeed, are the possibilities for Nelson’s future. Ted Jones is still a mentor, as lobbying is something Nelson is looking at potentially getting into after acquiring an M.B.A. in finance and investment. Other options include opening up an investment company or running for public office.

“Opportunities are literally falling out of the sky. You’ve just got to have your bag packed,” Nelson says. “Honestly, I just want to help people accomplish their goals.”

Nelson is certainly accomplishing his.



Students participate in Martin Luther King Jr. march while holding signs advocating for equality. *Photo by Brianna Fife.*

Students participate in march in Martin Luther King Jr.’s honor

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

The Martin Luther King Jr. march for social equality was hosted by the Center for Inclusion and Diversity and African American Caucus on Jan. 21. Students met in front of the Dr. Randall J. Webb Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center at 11 a.m.

The march began there and ended on the Kyser Brickway near the center of campus. Students came together as a community to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., stand up for equality and protest against intolerance.

“There are plenty of people in today’s society where we are all fighting for one thing whether it’s the right to marry, right to be a citizen, et cetera,” said JaKayla Lee, a student that attended the march. “Everyone deserves to be heard, and it is so important to stand up for something you believe in.”

Other students agreed that the march was important in more ways than one. The march itself held significance for the students that attended, whether for personal reasons or just to be more involved.

“I decided to attend the march to pay tribute to Martin Luther King and to be more involved on campus,” said student Kayla Smith. “I think of all of the things Martin Luther King did and all the fearless moves he made for us to come together as one.”

Others mentioned the uplifting experience of being surrounded by other students.

“The cause does influence me in a way,” Lee said, “It was very uplifting to be surrounded by my community, and we felt stronger together.”

Student Brianna Fife believes that days celebrating impactful people in history such as this should be discussed more in school.

“Martin Luther King Jr. Day is extremely important, and it should be talked about more because whether people believe it or not, racism is everywhere. It happens every day to anyone,” said Fife.



Cane Brake Café is open Monday to Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., while Legacy Café is open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Photo by Victoria Perkins.*

Two cafés open the door of oppurtunity in Natchitoches

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Natchitoches residents in search of a quick bite to eat now have a couple more options thanks to the openings of Cane Brake Café and Legacy Café.

Cane Brake Café, located on Church Street, had its grand opening Nov. 5. The café is open Monday-Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with coffee, the café also serves a selection of sandwiches, breakfast food and pastries.

Sandra Miller, owner of Cane Brake, described the atmosphere of the café as relaxed. She also said this isn’t the first time Cane Brake has come to Natchitoches; the café used to be open on Front Street but closed about seven years ago. After its closing, residents expressed that they missed the café.

“Over the years people have asked me to bring it back,” Miller said.

Legacy Café opened on Jan. 18. The café is located on North Street and is open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Their menu includes sandwiches, soups, salads and coffee.

Aside from serving customers, Legacy Café is aiming to assist young adults with the help of the Ben D. Johnson Educational Program. The program will provide hands-on workforce experience for 16-24-year-olds in order to teach them life and occupational skills.

Dallas Russell, executive director of the Ben Johnson Education Center, said the program will begin in March.

“This café’s purpose is a social enterprise to provide opportunities for young people to learn and gain skills,” Russell said.

Some students at Northwestern State University are excited about the new cafés in town.

“I’m glad that there are more places we can get coffee now,” said Courtney Baggett, freshman.

Cane River Brewing Co. hosts grand opening event with ribbon cutting

Lauren Briscoe
Reporter

Cane River Brewery held a grand opening event Thursday to officially kick off their business.

Owners Justin Krouse and Cade Gentry have put years of hard work into starting the brewery, and it all paid off when they were able to cut that large, red ribbon.

“We’ve been waiting a long time to make this happen,” Krouse said. “A lot of planning and a lot of support have led us to this day.”

The business offers four main beers in the form of American Pale Ale, India Pale Ale, Brown Ale and Pilsner, with a root beer and limited-edition Porter beer also available. At the ribbon cutting, Krouse and Gentry also announced plans to branch out into Shreveport and the Alexandria area.

“It is awesome to see some of our own from Natchitoches and NSU open this brewery,” said Van Erikson. “I think this is going to be great for the local economy, as well as for NSU students. It is a place like no other that we currently have!”

Since their soft opening in November, the brewery has been a go-to destination for those looking for good beer and a great time.

“The atmosphere is great. Any time I walk into Cane River Brewery, I know I am going to have a blast,” said NSU sophomore Christian Mercer. “Not to mention the beer is amazing. I have no complaints.”

NSYou

How could NSU improve the student experience?



"As great as NSU is, it could really use a bigger and better vegetarian section at the caf. Or just better food in general. If they can't add more restaurants on campus then the least they could do is serve better options on whatever is already open in the school."

Tamika Cang
Classification: Freshman
Major: Accounting



"NSU should have a better student union. Other colleges have an actual social area with pool tables, foosball, and other fun things to do. It would be a great place to meet new people and hang out. Maybe this could go in the downstairs area where the bookstore use to be."

Jessie Negrotto
Classification: Junior
Major: Computer Information Systems



"NSU should have a bus system that gives transport to student that say off campus for a little fee. There is no taxis in Natchitoches. Because of this, a lot of student walk far distances and there is a great risk from walking long distances with cars on high speed."

Saily Romero
Classification: Senior
Major: Business Administration

Marcus Jones: An example of black excellence

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor



Photo by Trinity Velazquez.

As the Executive Vice President of University and Business Affairs and 10 years of experience, Mr. Marcus Jones, M.D. has a lot of plates to balance. He taught business law before he became vice president. Because he came from the classroom, he always enjoyed working with students.

One issue that he faced was when switching from the classroom to administration was not really having a lot of contact and working with students. He participated in an international student exchange when he was an undergrad. It's something he's always been interested in.

It's given him an opportunity to work with international students and pair working with students with having international connections. He travels internationally, is fluent in Spanish, understands French and can speak a little Portuguese.

Being in an administrative position is important to him. When he looks back at his time at Northwestern, the number of African American faculty members weren't that many. When he walked into a classroom and saw someone that looked like him, he always wanted to make them proud.

He hopes that his presence does the same thing for young African American students at NSU. He believes that he is still young and that being in a high-level administrative position encourages and inspires students to do more, not just for African American students, but for students of all ethnicities and backgrounds.

Being from the small town of Winnfield, Louisiana, he came from a poor household and is the second-youngest of 20 kids. His father worked at the mill and his mother stayed home to raise the children. Education is something they always instilled in them. He believes that education is what allows a person to get ahead and is something that can't be taken away.

If someone went back and asked his 17-year-old self if he would be where he is today, his answer would be no. He had a small academic scholarship and graduated from NSU in 1988 with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in finance. He went to grad school and received his master's in international business and trade, and that began his teaching career. He also went to law school in 1996 and finished in 1999.

He loves what he does, he enjoys working with the people he does and is fortunate that through his upbringing he was able to be where he is today. He knows the importance of working hard, and people will notice. The work ethic he learned from his parents and remembering where he came from helps keep him grounded.

He does all the international recruiting and even brings students with him to countries all over the world. He does this to expose students to what he never was exposed to.

He still considers himself an introvert, but he comes out of his shell. Being in the environment that he came from, no one traveled internationally. He was scared but adventurous, just as any young person should be.

He loves working with young adults. The advice he always gave his students is to participate in some type of international exchange. He believes it could be life changing because students are provided with a different mindset and exposed to a lot of diversity. He has molded his position in to what it is today.

He wants to be more involved and is trusted that he can move his department in the direction that he sees fit. His one goal is to continue to make the University and Business Affairs user-friendly and more helpful for people to enjoy.

As for his international standpoint, his goal is to double the number of students to go abroad. He wants students to have a desire to go abroad and have enough funding to help them.

Mr. Jones has defied so many odds and deserves to be where he is today. He has worked hard and understands the needs of students all over the world. He is a great man and an even better administrator. He has a lot to offer to students and to the university.

He is incredible all around, and being an African-American man is something he holds proud and dear. Marcus Jones, J.D. is a perfect example of black excellence.

Holding yourself to a higher standard means never giving up

Cherish Wilson
Vice President of SGA

I wanted to be vice president of the Student Government Association because I wanted to serve the student body at a greater level than just as a senator. I knew that I was capable of leading others and wanted to work at my full capacity.

My favorite part of being VP is the connections I get to make at Northwestern and all around the country. These connections range from SGA senators, world renowned speakers and administration at Northwestern. Each of them is unique and I'm grateful for all of them individually.

Honestly, it feels amazing. I could not be more honored to serve in this capacity than I already am. My biggest initiative is to make sure we stay diverse and are taking the issues of all students into consideration while trying to find a way to make their experience here as enjoyable as possible.

As president of the African American Caucus on campus I am always working with students and our advisor to advocate for the black community in any way, form or fashion. I try to make sure people know that they can come talk to me about anything and I will do everything in my power to make sure it is fixed or at least begun to change.

In my opinion, I don't feel like I face any obstacles. Sometimes, I have to remind myself that I can't do everything that others do because I have an example to set. I don't see that as an obstacle because I try to hold myself at a higher standard than most would expect.

If I could give advice to my past self, I would say to never give up and always trust your gut! You are gifted in so many ways and areas, so never let anyone tell you different. Believe in yourself first and other will follow. Don't hesitate to get involved in that club or organization because you have to start somewhere. The way you present yourself is crucial in your success, so be smart and represent well. The sky is the limit, you can do anything and get anywhere by yourself without assistance from anyone.

I have learned that everyday won't be easy, but seeing the fruit of the hard work you put in makes the trials and tribulations seem small. Deciding to run for VP is one of my greatest decisions I've made and it's worth every minute of the meetings, office hours, calls and trips. If you need an encouraging word or help with anything please don't hesitate to contact me!



Maina Ibn-Mohammed accepts award from Doris Small, a social worker in the Natchitoches area. *Submitted photo.*

Congrats to one of our own

The Editorial Board
The Current Sauce

On behalf of The Current Sauce, the editorial board would like to extend its congratulations to Maina Ibn-Mohammed for his service to the Natchitoches and Nigerian communities.

Over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, he was awarded the MLK Jr. Award by the City of Natchitoches. The award was presented by Dr. Doris Small, a social worker, at the MLK Recreation Center.

Mohammed, junior, is majoring in business, computer information studies and general studies. He is also a reporter for The Current Sauce and president/founder of the Cultural Exploration Organization here on campus.

Not only is Maina a great reporter, he is an even better leader, and we consider ourselves lucky to have him on staff. Maina is an example of what we all should strive to be: loyal, kind, selfless and understanding.

Originally from Nigeria, Mohammed had to face many obstacles to get to where he is today. With the help of his uncle, Mohammed said he was able to achieve his "dream" of coming to the States.

A dedicated student and president, Mohammed tries his best to make sure everyone he knows is happy and taken care of. Through his club and donations from other Registered Student Organizations, Mohammed helped establish drinking wells in Africa.

We at the Sauce are glad that the city has recognized the skills and qualities Mohammed possesses. Maina is truly one of a kind, and we know that he will do great things for this newspaper, this university and the world.

Letters to the Editor



Katelyn Baronne enjoys her meal from Chick-fil-A in Café DeMon. *Photo by Cassandra Phillips.*

Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, what's the difference?

Katelyn Baronne
NSU Student

The opening of the much-anticipated Chick-fil-A was an exciting moment for what seemed like all Northwestern State students. However, in the Current Sauce issue released on January 30, Vice President of PRIDE Elliot Davis states that NSU opening a Chick-fil-A is "a slap in the face to LGBTQ+ students."

In response to Davis' statement, Chick-fil-A is no more a slap in the face to LGBTQ+ students than Starbucks is to pro-life students.

Café Demon, a coffee shop on campus that sells Starbucks products, opened in April of 2016. Starbucks is known for its progressive views, especially on same-sex marriage.

The company has also received some mixed responses for its open support of Planned Parenthood and multiple accusations of racism.

NSU students of all political affiliations and backgrounds still choose to buy coffee there on a regular basis.

Davis is correct that Chick-fil-A supports anti-LGBTQ+ groups. They are far from the only company that supports a certain political or social issue, though.

Another example of this is Nike's recent advertisement of Colin Kaepernick. Some consumers were inspired by the campaign and others chose to not invest in Nike products anymore.

What's amazing is neither side is wrong. Just as people have a right to boycott Nike, Chick-fil-A has a right to not support LGBTQ+ people and Starbucks has a right donate to Planned Parenthood.

Most importantly, this shows that consumers should stay informed about what their favorite companies support so they can choose whether they wish to support that as well.

Students should be aware of what their money is going to, but no one can tell them not to eat their waffle fries.

Is Chick-fil-A really an attack on the LGBTQ community?

Nicholas Sisk
NSU Student

Recently an article was posted claiming that NSU's partnership with Chick-fil-A was "just another slap in the face" to the campus's queer students and staff.

The most incriminating claim against the company that the article uses to attack the new restaurant is that the company's tax-exempt foundation has continued to donate to anti-LGBTQ+ organizations.

According to tax filings, in 2017, the foundation donated $1,541,459 to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, $146,688 to the Salvation Army and $132,000 to the Paul Anderson Youth Home Inc. The thing that all of these "anti-queer organizations" have in common is the fact that they are religious groups. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes states on their website that they believe that "God instituted marriage between one man and one woman."

Private institutions can have religious beliefs be a part of their institution. These groups are in fact no harm to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

What the author does not mention is that Chick-fil-A has never denied service to LGBTQ+ people. Surely, there would be more uproar from almost everyone if they had. Yes, they used to donate to political organizations that were not pro-LGBTQ+. However, these donations have ceased to exist.

It is important to let these private businesses have their own religious beliefs. If we were to allow the government to step in and force these private businesses to not have their principles, then we would be discriminating against one group for the sake of "equality." We would also be forsaking one of our most important amendments, the first.

The author goes on to state that the university made "no attempt to reach out to us or hear our concerns." Once again this is another inaccurate statement. Students of NSU were able to voice their concerns at the SGA meetings which are currently held Monday at 6 p.m. in the Cane River Room.

If this were an issue, they would have brought it up at the meetings to try and get something changed. According to SGA's Orgsync page, that is the group's purpose, to serve as a "liaison between the Student Body and the Administration, and recommend any desirable change concerning any aspect of student life." The way the author speaks about this issue makes it seem like it was concerning to the student life of members of the LGBTQ+ community. So why was this not voiced before the Chick-fil-A was opened?

The author then continues by talking about Louisiana being a battleground state for LGBTQ+ people. I have no knowledge of Louisiana's laws on the LGBTQ+ community as I am from Texas. However, I will say that even without these protections, I have not heard of a person being fired simply for the fact that they were a part of that community.

In fact, why would a member of the community want to work for someone who is willing to fire them for some part of their existence they didn't get to choose?

If you agree with the dissenting opinion that the Chick-fil-A was an attack on the LGBTQ+ community, then there is one simple solution: don't support it, don't give it your money. That is how the free market works. No one is forcing you to eat at a restaurant that you believe doesn't support your existence, but as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I see no problem with Chick-fil-A and the groups it chooses to donate to.

Opinion journalism vs. advocacy journalism and your "writes" as an NSU Demon

Kasi Patten
Former NSU Student



Every semester it goes without fail-someone writes an opinion article and then a slew of the opposing view slam The Current Sauce for allowing it to be posted. So, I have chosen to give a little lesson in journalism for you.

Let me begin with why everyone is able to write for The Current Sauce. The Current Sauce is apart of a media network including KNWD 91.7FM the Demon and the Potpourri Yearbook. Together, they are known in short as NSULA Student Media. Every year, a portion of your student activity fees are allotted to these organizations to ensure you receive awesome benefits such as a free yearbook and DemonFest. These funds also go towards making sure The Current Sauce stays in print. By allowing for these funds to be divided amongst Student Media, you ensure that students have outlets for creative, professional and personal growth. Since everyone contributes to the monetary maintenance of this organization, in turn everyone is able to contribute, pick up an issue free of cost, and attend events for no additional cost to you. Pretty cool, eh?

Now, let's move onto why everyone is allowed to write whatever they feel for The Current Sauce newspaper without fear of censorship. It's simple: the First Amendment. If you need a refresher in civics, the First Amendment is, "an amendment to the US Constitution that prohibits any law limiting freedom with respect to religion, expression, peaceful assembly, or the right of citizens to petition the government." Long story short: the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition of the government. Today's high points are the freedom of speech and the freedom of press.

The freedom of Speech does not mean you can say anything and everything you want. It simply means that you right to say whatever you want to is protected to some degree from the law. However, if you were to yell "FIRE" without there actually being a fire and cause a big commotion, you may still be prosecuted within the fullest extent of the law, especially if someone was injured due to your words.

The freedom of press is the freedom to print without interference from the government or law as long as it does not prove to libelous, obscene, or seditious. Of course, there are laws detailing what falls under freedom of press and what does not.

Now let's look at the term opinion journalism. Opinion journalism is defined as "journalism that takes no claim of objectivity". This is not to be mistaken for advocacy journalism which is a sub-genre of journalism which intentionally takes on an non-objective angle for either a social or political purpose. Advocacy journalism is based on facts in either the social or political realm whereas opinion journalism is simply stating one's opinion-weather it be factually sound or not.

In conclusion, everyone has a right to state their opinion in whatever media they choose. Whether that be Facebook, The Current Sauce or a radio show at KNWD. However, just because the media publishes something does not mean it is the direct view of the publication. Everyone has a right to traditional, opinion or advocacy journalism within The Current Sauce. So please, leave your hate at the door and if something sparks your interest pick up your pens and get to writing. I'd love to read what you have to say.

Regarding Chick-fil-gAte

Jacob Bennett, Trinity Velazquez, Anson Ballow, Samantha Clark, Cassandra Phillips, Valentina Perez Espinosa
Editors

Last week, we ran an op-ed from a student on campus that received mostly negative attention. The feedback came from hundreds of students who strongly disagreed with the piece, which asserted that Chick-fil-A's opening on campus was a "slap in the face" to LGBTQ students.

We operate differently than business-driven publications in that The Current Sauce does not belong to its staff; it belongs to NSU's students. This isn't our paper. It's yours.

We see The Current Sauce as a platform for every student on campus, regardless of age, race, sexuality, religion or political affiliation. We have made an effort this year to expand our Viewpoints page to include people of various beliefs and backgrounds.

Last week's issue included the anti-Chick-fil-A piece, but also a more conservative pro-life piece. Neither of the writers is on our staff, and neither piece is endorsed by the newspaper. However, we feel that publishing both of these pieces was the right call.

The Viewpoints page is a voice for all students, and at a university with thousands of students, there is no way all of us will ever agree on one thing. And that's okay.

Many act as though views outside the mainstream should be ridiculed and suppressed. We believe this is incompatible with the concept of free speech. If you disagree with someone's assertion, enter the marketplace of ideas and argue against it.

In closing, if you want your paper to be more reflective and representative of you and your interests, get involved! You can email us an opinion piece, or ask about getting involved in reporting at thecurrentsauce@gmail.com.

Journalism is an imperfect art, but with your help, we can make The Current Sauce better for generations of Demons to come.

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! I'm always so tired I can barely enjoy my college experience. How can I not be so exhausted all the time?

A Hey guys! First and foremost, REST! Here are a few tips on how to do so more efficiently:

1. Getting a planner helps organize everything and is the first step to making more time for rest.

2. Do assignments shortly after they're assigned. Don't allow your assignments to pile up on you. The faster you complete assignments, the faster you can rest!

3. Partying is more tiring than you think! It's okay to say no to friends to catch up on sleep.

4. Stay hydrated & eat less! Eating heavy food or unhealthy sugary snacks will leave you feeling drowsy. Try to eat light meals with healthy snacks in between to keep you energized.

5. In the event that you keep losing sleep, head on over to our very own Cafe' Demon for some coffee, tea or hot chocolate for that extra morning boost. Or if warm drinks aren't your thing try our C-Store where they sell 5-hour ENERGY®!

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



Alphonse Engram performs in "5 Senses" from the 2017-2018 academic year. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Alphonse Engram has a light and he's going to let it shine

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

Alphonse Engram is a sophomore in the brand-new dance B.F.A. program. Not only is he starring in the spring production of "Cat in the Hat," he will also be featured in two Senior Dance Concert pieces, an ACDA piece and is also a member of the Demon Dazzlers.

How does he do all of this and maintain a 3.7 GPA, a business minor and maintain 6 scholarships/grants?

NSU wasn't the only school Engram got accepted to. He highly considered Oklahoma City University and Arizona State University. Ultimately, he decided to choose NSU because it was closest to his mother.

Engram doesn't regret his decision and in fact believes NSU to have been his best choice. He said that NSU "is an amazing school. The activities and atmosphere are amazing. The faculty makes everything easier and fun while giving a great educational background. Also, the campus is beautiful, and it makes it easier to just go walk around with some friends."

From the beginning his mom was his biggest supporter. Engram's mother comes to as many of his performance she can, which as you can tell for him is quite a lot.

Throughout his life, it has been his mom and him against the world. When Engram was young, he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD. His mother, though understanding, was very admitting about making sure Engram was never able to use it as a crutch.

"She always pushed me and made sure that it was easier for me in the future," Engram said. "She's my best friend."

Engram now also suffers from major depressive disorder, but if you were to meet him, you would never think that was a something wrong with him. Despite everything, he has a sunny disposition and a sweet smile for anyone willing to accept it.

Engram grew up in the small town of Deridder, Louisiana. Despite what it seems, he didn't start dancing until his freshman year of high school. As recital was approaching at his local dance studio, he decided to go and watch with a few of his friends which led him to seeing another male dancer in his town perform.

This lit a fire for Alphonse, and he immediately enrolled.

"I started like the babies," he explained. "I took tap and ballet at first." He first began in classes with his two step-sisters at the time. Eventually about a month later, his instructors began to suggest that he bump up a level due to how quickly he was picking each skill up.

"I bumped up to the higher level, but I stayed in the lower level class as well to help out with my step-sisters." Later in high school as a junior and senior he began to compete with his studio and also joined his high school dance line.

Nearly every day Engram wakes up for early morning Dazzler rehearsals and then proceeds to go to his three or four classes, depending on the day, which total to twenty-four hours. He then gets a small break before attending his evening rehearsals which are from 4:00-10:00 p.m. every evening and will continue until the show opens in March. On top of these daily commitments, Engram must also complete morning workouts and a two-mile run each week for Dazzlers.

Engram dreams of one day opening his own studio in Branson, Missouri. This is why he has added a business minor and is now even considering an HMT minor. He first became enraptured with Branson when he visited for a dance competition.

He wants to be able to teach others his passion for dance. "I don't want to be known for what I did. I want to be known for who I am," Engram said.

I have had the absolute pleasure of working with Alphonse Engram personally on my own senior dance concert piece. He is one of the hardest working, kindest individuals I have ever encountered. If there is anyone on this campus that embodies and represents NSU, it is with no doubt Alphonse Engram.

Whether you see him walking around or on the field, his bright personality and upbeat attitude will always make you smile. When asked for a final quote, all he had to say was "and always fork 'em demons," and that says it all.



Kiara LaFitte presents her poem at the MLK March on Jan. 21. *Photo by Brianna Fife.*

Black History Poem

Kiara LaFitte
President of NSU Brainy Acts Poetry Society

Why does my skin complexion
Cause such rejection
As if when I speak to you
You'll become ill
With infection.
My melanin isn't a disease
And, I don't see,
Why you hate me
But then the next day
You wanna be
Like me.
You steadily tryna tease,
Playing me like I'm weak.
They say once you go black
You never go back
But the difference is,
You get to go home after the police say,
"Hands up!"
"Freeze!"
Because they see you're white
Then become at ease
And they tease you like,
"Hey buddy, you had me scared,
I almost had to shoot you."
Yeah corrupt cops are aware,
And they don't care
So beware...
Because it's the sense they lack.
I mean,
It's crazy.
How are you scared of
Another innocent human
Driving while black?
It reminds me of a song my homie Mack did
Way back
In the gap.
"I, look to the sky, wondering why
Watching humanity die
Watching these families cry
They're killing them young
And I know they don't plan to see God
Going to heaven before 25
Call the police
The brutality squad
You wanted equality
And the reply is:
'Boy you be lucky you black and alive.'"

It's crazy how history repeats itself.
Rosa sat so Martin could walk and,
Martin walked so Barack could run
So, shouldn't we be having fun?
Dr. King wanted us to walk hand and hand
Not with our hands up, faced to a barrel of a gun
But, it's all good.
Because we're going to a better place.
So if you never see me again,
Because of an accident
Just know I'm up in heaven
With my homie J.
And for right now,
Imma just wait.
Because these blessings?
They're coming my way.

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Friday, February 1 - Thursday, February 7
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Miss Bala (PG13)				
Friday-Sunday	1:10	4:00	7:00	9:30
Monday- Thursday	-	4:00	7:00	9:30
Vice (R)				
Friday-Sunday	1:00	3:50	6:40	9:20
Monday-Thursday	-	3:50	6:40	9:20
The Kid Who Would Be King (PG)				
Friday-Sunday	1:10	4:00	6:50	9:30
Monday-Thursday	-	4:00	6:50	9:30
Glass (PG13)				
Friday-Sunday	1:00	3:50	6:40	9:20
Monday-Thursday	-	3:50	6:40	9:20
Escape Room (PG13)				
Friday-Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:00	9:30
Monday-Thursday	-	4:10	7:00	9:30
The Upside (PG13)				
Friday-Sunday	1:00	3:50	6:40	9:20
Monday-Thursday	-	3:50	6:40	9:20

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vs. UNO

2/9/19 3:00 p.m.
@Lake Charles
vs. Mcneese

Women:
2/6/19 7:00 p.m.
@New Orleans
vs. UNO

2/9/19 1:00 p.m.
@Lake Charles
vs. Mcneese



Ishmael Lane and LaTerrance Reed racking up points. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Demons hold on, win a wild one at UCA, 80-75

Doug Ireland
Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director

CONWAY, Arkansas – For Northwestern State to find itself in a tight game down the stretch was nothing new, and in the final 3:11 Saturday evening at Central Arkansas, the battle-tested Demons made the plays, and the free throws, they had to have for an 80-75 Southland Conference basketball victory.

It wasn't settled until Ishmael Lane drained a pair at the line with 6.4 seconds left, capping his fifth-straight double-double performance with 22 points and 13 rebounds.

It hardly seemed in question at halftime following a stellar start by the visitors, whose 51-27 advantage was built on 68 percent shooting, 30 percent higher than normal, including 6 of 11 on 3-pointers from a squad that was sinking only 28 percent entering the game.

But the Bears slipped into the Demons' shoes coming out of the break, and came from 25 down to even the score at 68 with 3:11 remaining. Then NSU's defense, which confounded UCA in the first half, stalled the Bears' rally and the Demons overcame to-that-point subpar aim at the free throw line and nailed nine of their last 10 to prevail.

NSU (8-14 overall, 3-6 in the Southland) reached the middle of the 18-game league season with a stirring road triumph. Along with Lane, LaTerrance Reed scored 19, DeAndre Love 12 and Brian White 11 to lead an offense registering its first game of the year with over 50 percent aim (56 percent, 28-50).

Love had a pivotal steal and layup with 37 seconds left to give the visitors a 74-70 advantage. After UCA (10-13, 5-5) got two free throws on its next trip, NSU point guard C.J. Jones drained a pair at the line five seconds later.

The Bears' Thatch Unruh scored the last of his 33 points on a three-point play at the 0:21 mark, but senior Malik Metoyer swished two free throws a second later. Then UCA faltered, with Unruh (84 percent at the line) and DeAndre Jones (81 percent) both off the mark on a pair of freebies sandwiched around an offensive rebound.

Lane rebounded the last miss, was fouled and drained both his chances to lock up NSU's second dramatic league road win. The late free throw run came after the Demons connected on just 8 of 21 until the game was tied.

"We figured out a way to win. We bent but didn't break, and the little things we did, especially down the stretch, were decisive," said NSU coach Mike McConathy. "We made winning plays and overcame our mistakes and their big plays.

"We made pressure free throws. That's toughness. That's what we've been seeking," he said. "Man after man, we made clutch plays with the game on the line. C.J. Jones not only played the point rock solid, but he got rebounds and loose balls."

The outcome ended a four-game skid by NSU, which never trailed.

"We scored 51 points in the first half because we got easy shots and made good shots, and our confident swelled. We were attacking the bucket, we were defending and creating turnovers, we were rebounding and taking care of the ball, making excellent decisions," said McConathy.

"It was total team effort. We played Demon basketball, and that means Coach Mike or anyone else over on the bench has to call plays.

Think about plays DeAndre Love made, LaTerrance Reed made, Malik Metoyer, several others. Ish dominated the first 10 minutes like nobody has in any game we've played this year."

But UCA, a 105-99 overtime loser Wednesday at Stephen F. Austin, got off the mat and fought back.

"Give them a ton of credit. They recovered and turned the tables on us," said McConathy. "You've got to play to win, and we were on our heels there for quite a while. Our guys gathered themselves, and competed."

The staunch response to the Bears' rally was especially heartening after the Demons faltered late in New Orleans, dropping a contest with 17 lead changes as the Privateers outscored NSU 8-2 in the final 50 seconds for an eight-point victory. NSU gets to play at home for the only time in a five-game stretch Wednesday night, meeting UNO for the second time in seven days.

"This can be a huge step in us moving forward," said McConathy. "I'm so proud of the guys for being locked down, getting a lead, overcoming adversity and refusing to yield."

Student Opinion



Colin Kapernick. *Photo by Mike Morbeck.*

In defense of Colin Kaepernick

Jasmine Frazier
Contributing writer

Sports are what make our world go around. It is crazy because a good football game can really bring the best out of people. Unfortunately, a player standing up for what they believe in can also bring the worst out of people. It's crazy how something as simple as taking a knee can set the clock on racism back almost 100 years and show that athletes are mules for entertainment.

Most sports team's players are predominately African American. This is something that our ancestors could have never imagined but the times have changed while people really haven't.

Every time you turn on your TV to ESPN or purchase a ticket to your favorite team's game, you're paying for the experience to see who is going to win or who is going to lose. The one thing you unknowingly take away from these athletes is the right for them to have free speech.

Everyone loves someone until they find out what they believe in. The world went into complete chaos when Collin Kapernick decided to take a knee a silent protest for the African American individuals that aren't able to have a voice. How can people who can't bear to see equality for all people take something so positive in as negativity?

The world has not changed one bit: Slavery has been substituted with sports and the shackles are their fans. America enslaves athletes for their personal amusement. When will athletes be able to have a voice? This is supposed to be the home of the brave and the land of the free; it's starting to feel like this is the home of slaves and the land of shame.

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THE CURRENT SAUCE

Bringing students the sauciest news since 1914.

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Kyser Brickway is a popular hang-out spot for students. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

University takes safety measures on Kyser Brickway

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Northwestern State University installed six new posts at the front of Kyser Brickway next to the flagpole.

Construction happened over winter break and concluded by the time classes resumed in January.

Dale Wohletz, physical plant director at NSU, said the posts were installed to resolve a safety issue.

The Brickway is frequently busy with students walking to and from class. Wohletz said the posts are intended to keep cars from potentially hitting pedestrians.

He said that, in case of emergency, the post can be removed.

For cars that must have a way onto the Brickway, there is still a route for them in the back.

Jon Caliste, director of University Safety at NSU's police department, said there were too many vehicles traveling on the Brickway.

Aside from causing danger to pedestrians, he said the vehicles were also wearing down the bricks.

"University police always has the safety of the community as our top priority," Caliste said.

"We determined that this was one of the ways to make everyone feel a little safer on campus," Caliste said.

Although some students have wondered why they were installed, the posts have not seemed to be a cause for concern.

"I noticed the posts, but I didn't pay much attention," said Abby Vallery, junior.



Cristian Paez frequently rides his bicycle to go to school and around campus. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

Students to get new mode of transportation on campus

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

Unfortunately, when first moving to Natchitoches, it won't take you very long at all to notice there is a complete lack of public transportation in this college town community. It is true that most places are within walking distance, but you won't notice a large amount of foot traffic in the area either.

While Uber and Lyft may still not be options for such a small town like Natchitoches, an alternative for those looking for easy transport and a way to reduce your carbon footprint is emerging. Bike sharing is already a very popular mode of transportation at many universities. So much so that apps like Lime and Bird have become popular nationwide. BikeShare is interested in becoming a part of Northwestern's daily routine.

So how will students benefit from this? Well according to Lindsey West, CEO of the Bantam Strategy Group, the company intending on implementing the BikeShare system, the main goal is to improve upon the connectivity on campus. "The everyday student going from their dorm or classroom or to the student union is going to 100% benefit from this BikeShare system." These bikes will allow students who don't have other forms of transportation to have easier access to essentials that are off campus, for instance, the new bookstore, the grocery, or even the public library. The possibilities are endless.

These bikes are also specially designed. The bikes are expected to be customizable at the drop of a dime to accommodate different users. Most companies are switching to rubber-based tires to prevent flats as well. What's really special about these bikes is the live GPS hidden on each bike which tells you and the company its location at all times, making it easier to access.

The way these bikes will work is that there will be a few BikeShare hubs sprinkled throughout the city. Bikes can be checked out and returned from different hubs, meaning that you don't need to return it where you originally got it from. "It's usually accessed through an app," according to West, "so everything is right there at your fingertips; it's seamless." The app that will be used to accommodate said bikes have not yet been determined. Nonetheless, expect there to be one-time use options for payment as well as monthly memberships that can provide benefits such as a keycard in the event you do not have access to your phone.

The goal is to have this plan formed by this summer, preferably the month of June, according to West. After a plan has been formed and depending on decisions made, these bikes may be implemented by the end of 2019 but could take years.

Center of Inclusion and Diversity moves to new office in Student Union

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

The Center for Inclusion and Diversity has moved from the second floor of the Friedman Student Union down to the glass offices near the Grill.

"I think [the move] will make us more visible and students will see who we are and what we do," said CID Coordinator Brittany Blackwell Broussard, who's also a psychology professor at NSU. "I like unity and want this campus to be more unified," Broussard said.

Meant to be an accessible and visible area for both students and faculty, the decision to move the department from the second floor to the first floor was made by several faculty members.

The move also allowed the director of the Students Activity Board to be next to the SAB offices upstairs.

"I hope more students will walk through there and see [CID] just walking to the Union," said Dean of Students Frances Conine. "I'm hopeful of that," said Conine.

The department has plans for events in the works for Black History Month and more in mind, all of which can be found online on their Facebook page.

CID was also a host of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day march that occurred Jan. 21.

"The Center for Inclusion and Diversity means that no one gets left behind," says Ashante Knox, a junior currently interning for the CID.

"It's a place where it's okay to get personal. Our intention is to ensure that every individual at NSU, no matter their identity or background, feels included at NSU," said Knox.



The Grill is a popular food joint on campus. Seriously, try the Philly cheesesteak. *Photo by Victoria Perkins.*

Steak 'n Shake to replace The Grill

Lauren Briscoe
Contributing Writer

The rumors are true, Demons: The Grill, located on the first floor of the Friedman Student Union, is on its way out, and Steak 'n Shake is on its way in.

"We are in the process of making this true," says Jennifer Kelly, Director of Auxiliary Services. "We have been working with Sodexo and the Steak 'n Shake representative to make this a reality here at Northwestern State."

Though the plans are still in the early stages, Kelly is excited at the possibility to continue to diversify on-campus eating options.

Plans to extend the space that is currently The Grill is also in the works.

"If all goes well, we hope to move the Sodexo office, remove the brick, and add glass, just like at Café DeMon," Kelly said.

Some students are thrilled at the idea of making this a reality.

"I think a Steak and Shake will be a good way to give students more options, especially for me, someone who has never tried it before!" says Emma Wallace, a junior here at NSU.

Students will be able to use their declining balance to purchase food from Steak 'n Shake.

"Steak 'n Shake is my favorite place to eat, so I'm sure I will be eating there a lot," says Allie Wintz, junior.

The time frame for this project is still unknown.

Have an opinion to share?
Put a fork in our inbox.

Submit your piece to
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for editorial consideration.

Stay Current

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Quote of the Week

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

Angela Davis

2 **Arts & Living:** KNWD hosts new shows, returning favorites

3 **Viewpoints:** What is your perception of beauty?

4 **Sports:** Jazz Ferguson to make splash at NFL combine

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! How do you go about Valentine's Day if you are single?

A Hey guys. So, I've kind of got an expertise in this category. Spending Valentine's Day single can be as fun or as miserable as you make it. Here are some things that I've always done.

1. Spoil yourself. Self-love is a key aspect of life. How can you love others properly without first loving yourself?

2. Surprise yourself! Send yourself some flowers or chocolates to yourself in advance and forget that you did it so that when Valentine's Day comes you have a nice surprise.

3. Create a tinder account! You can set up a quick one-night date, and you never know where a blind date might lead.

4. Order pizza and watch romantic movies alone. (Drinking is recommended but not mandatory. Age restrictions apply.)

5. Make some extra cash driving couples around on Valentine's Day.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



Brandi Corken and Taylor Young hosting their show, T&B with the Tea, on KNWD. *Photo by Jacob Bennett.*

KNWD hosts new programs, returning favorites

Maina Ibn Mohammed
Reporter

Northwestern State University's KNWD has a variety of programming this semester for your listening pleasure. The student-run radio station is currently based in Kyser Hall, room 109. It runs 24 hours a day targeting the audience in the Natchitoches community and the students at NSU.

Students working at the radio station will get a chance to learn valuable skills like radio management, on-air hosting, and radio production.

"Last semester we had a pretty decent number of shows, but this semester we don't have as much," DJ coordinator Kiara Lafitte said. The demand for new shows is going up as most of the current hosts are graduating seniors.

"I am looking for new DJs to do new shows," Lafitte said. She currently has one new DJ but she is looking to fill more spots.

Some of the new shows on KNWD this semester are:

"Sportsketball Therapy," a sports show about everything sports related. It is hosted by Cole Brumbelow on Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

"Sports with Ron at the Crack of Dawn," hosted by Leron Massey, is also a sports show, with the time still to be determined. Massey will also have guests to interview about sports as well.

"Papa and the Chief," a show where the main focus is on world events and current affairs. They discuss relevant political and international happenings, as well as local news. It is hosted by Jacob Bennett and Anson Ballow on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

"The VanYeaux," a show about student life and the different activities you can do throughout the week. It is hosted by Yonna Pash and Vanner Erikson on Thursdays at 12 p.m.

A 30-minute show hosted by the news reporters at KNWD about current events and related content takes place on Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

There are also some returning shows at KNWD this semester. T&B with the Tea airs on Fridays at 12 p.m. Co-host Brandi Corkern decided to try hosting with her best friend Taylor Young and now they are glad they did.

"We both absolutely love it and we are looking forward to extending it to a podcast when we leave NSU," Corkern said.

Musician Dany Recero hosts "TheMixShow." The name comes from the fusion of musical genres like salsa, Merengue, and Champeta, said the KNWD has helped him in a "very important and big way."

Recero says the radio station has opened his musical borders and allowed many important people are getting to know him. "Thanks to KNWD I had the opportunity to meet the person who is now my music manager."

Scholarships are available for some positions, and one scholarship is awarded annually to an incoming freshman. Any student can apply to work without pay at the station.

"If you want to be a news reporter for KNWD or if you want to host your own DJ show, I suggest you fill out an application on Orgsync now," Lafitte said.

Eyes of Argus

Pantoum to the Goddess

Chris Callahan

Maidens, Mothers, Crones.
Sitting patiently in disguise,
Cast your knuckle bones!
Waiting for a new season to rise.
Sitting patiently in disguise,
Watching the world of straw men turn round,
Waiting for a new season to rise,
Watching the men of clay return to the ground.
Watching the world of straw men turn round,
Seeking only the greater good,
Watching the men of clay return to the ground,
Cloistered away in a green wood.
Seeking only the greater good,
Alone in Sacred Solitude she toils,
Cloistered away in a green wood,
Watching the men fight over the war's spoils.
Alone in Sacred Solitude she toils,
Cast your knuckle bones!
Watching the men fight over war's spoils,
Maidens, Mothers, Crones.

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Monday, February 11 - Thursday. February 14
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket



Happy Death Day 2U (PG-13)
Monday- Thursday - 4:30 7:10 9:30

Isn't It Romantic (PG-13)
Monday-Thursday - 4:30 7:10 9:30

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part in 3D (PG)
Monday-Thursday - - - 9:20

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part (PG)
Monday-Thursday - 4:20 7:00 -

What Men Want (R)
Monday-Thursday - 4:10 6:50 9:20

Miss Bala (PG-13)
Monday-Thursday - 4:20 7:00 9:30

The Upside (PG-13)
Monday-Thursday - 3:50 6:40 9:20

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
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Kingdom Hearts

The third 'Kingdom Hearts' is a flawed but enjoyable ride

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

"Kingdom Hearts," one of the weirdest and most successful crossovers between "Final Fantasy" and Disney has an insane legacy. From the original and second game on Playstation 2, the many continuations and stories from all the other titles, we finally get to the 12 entry in the series, "Kingdom Hearts 3."

Fans have been waiting six years to finally get the game. However, while it lived up to a few of my expectations, some areas could be improved.

My problem with this games' story is how there's a lack of urgency leading to the finale. It makes the final part feel rushed.

KH3 officially ends the "Dark Seeker" saga of the series. Its story is better than past titles. Compared to titles like "Dream Drop Distance," the writing has improved significantly.

If you're new to the series, or just confused, there are ways to get caught up. One way is "Kingdom Hearts: The Story So Far," a compilation title featuring all the games. It's released for Playstation 4.

Gameplay in KH3 focuses around traveling to worlds based on select Disney and Pixar movies, which is one of my favorite aspects of the series. The worlds and characters of Disney, re-created in Unreal Engine 4, look phenomenal.

Character models sometimes look more impressive that the original movies they came from. Some of my favorite worlds included: Kingdom of Corona from "Tangled," Monstropolis from "Monsters Inc." and San Fransokyo from "Big Hero 6."

Venturing through the worlds usually comes with a recap of the movies, but some worlds take a more original approach. Toy Box, based off the "Toy Story" films, have you explore a toy store but has a few references to "Final Fantasy."

Combat is less technical and easier than past games. Whichever keyblade you wield has a form they can transform into to access new attacks that are very flashy.

While having fun and flashy combat is acceptable, it's a step down because it gets gimmicky and player expression is almost nonexistent. I played on the highest available difficulty, Proud mode, and it felt significantly easier than past titles.

Most times, I didn't have to think about what I was doing and just mashed "X" for a majority of my play-through. Previous titles, like the original two, allowed players to change their strategies and experiment with every ability you gained through the game.

Despite all my criticism with the game, I still enjoyed it.

After the long wait, I'm glad I got the chance to play KH3. It's an enjoyable game with a ton of great qualities to it. Some parts at the end of the gam made me emotional.

I would easily recommend it to fans or people interested in the series.



Contributing Writer Jasmine Frazier models in her free time.
Submitted photo.

What is your perception of beauty?

Jasmine Frazier
Contributing Writer

Subconsciously, we know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Unfortunately, what we define as beauty seems like something social media has molded into its own perception.

Everyone wants to be attractive, and in our generation, it is a battle of who can be the baddest. If you don't know what a "baddie" is, just think about all of the Instagram influencers with snatched waists, big butts, perfect hair, perfect skin, perfect teeth. The first thing that popped up in your head was probably Kim Kardashian, and I hope you then pondered how much she spent to look like that.

At this point in our lives, beauty comes for a price. Or does beauty actually happen the minute we open our eyes on this planet? Everyone is beautiful in his or her own way, and we seem to forget that. No one looks alike, and we are all a work of art.

Now, it is way easier said then done to wake up and think you are a goddess when you can't help but to feel like you aren't good enough to meet beauty's standards. Honestly, there aren't any real beauty standards. People have made up what they view as beauty and forced these views on everyone else.

So, when we think of beauty, let's end society's definition. At the end of the day, when you look in the mirror, no matter what shape you are, how long your hair is or how clean your teeth are, you are the definition of beauty. Art isn't perfect and neither are people. The difference between those plastic bodies and our real ones with dents and scars is that our bodies tell a story, while theirs was created for them. Your perception of beauty is the real perception. You are beautiful—remember that.

God is waiting on us to wait

Mattie Stewart
NSU Student

Okay, let's be vulnerable, people. I have been struggling.

Not just "struggling with my school work" type of struggle, but the "Why am I having to go through all of this, God?" type of struggle.

It has been problem after problem, mistake after mistake, worry after worry for the past few months. Between family issues, my relationship, my friendships, illnesses, insecurities, and anxieties, it has been a whirlwind of chaos. Usually, I can get knocked down and brush it off. No harm done, let's just push forward.

But this time, it wasn't like that. I have let these last few months of hardship affect me like never before. I have yelled, screamed and cried to God, begging him to give me an answer to my question: Why? Why am I constantly given something new to worry about? Why can't you give me a break? Why is my family going through this? Why can't I find happiness in my friendships? Why do I not feel pursued? Why do I care what this person thinks of me so much? Why aren't I stronger? Better? More confident? Why?

After months of bitterness, sadness, anger, and confusion, I found myself reading Habakkuk. The first few verses of the book literally say, "How long, Lord, must I call for help and you do not listen or cry out to you about violence and you do not save? Why do you force me to look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Oppression and violence are right in front of me" (verses two-three).

How many times have I felt like Habakkuk, wondering and questioning why God is allowing these things to happen to me? I find myself asking him why I'm even calling out for help when it feels like he isn't listening.

But, then God gives his first answer: "Be astounded! For I am doing something in your days that you will not believe when you hear about it" (verse five). This is when he brings me to my knees. He is working in my life. He is bringing me out of this depression. He is bringing me help and comfort and peace in my time of need. But when? Why not now?

Habakkuk goes on to pray his second prayer, and he questions God (a lot like I have been doing). He asks, "Why are you silent?" Why God, why are you silent?

In chapter two, Habakkuk waits. He waits, on guard, for the Lord to respond. And when He answers, oh does he answer. He says, "Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly not be late" (verse three).

This is the answer to my question. We just need to wait. We wait for him to do something in our lives and time after time we become impatient.

We want to know why we are waiting for so long, but we never realize that God is waiting on us, too. He is waiting on us to trust him. He is waiting on us to surrender those family issues, the relationship problems, the friendships, the illnesses, the insecurities, and the anxieties to him. He is waiting on us to wait on him so he can do incredible things in our lives. We may not get the answer when we want it, but His promise of deliverance will come right now time, it will not be late.

So like Habakkuk, I will rejoice instead of dwell. Though new hardships are constantly arising, I will celebrate. I will cry out in thanks that I have a God who loves me and is never late. I will trust his timing and his ways.

Will it be hard? Definitely. But oh, will it be worth it.

This article was originally published on www.nsulabcm.com.



Graphic by Brianna Fife.

For you, it was just another morning

Cassie Phillips
Design Editor

For me, it was the perfect morning.

I opened my eyes slowly and found myself tangled in your arms. The cold air stung my fingertips. You were growing the strength to turn around and hit the snooze button on your phone, releasing me from your warm embrace. A smile crept across your face as you pulled me back into your grasp. I playfully nudged you for what felt like an hour to get up, knowing you had responsibilities to tend to.

After many of my attempts, you made a wobbly trip to the bathroom for a shower. You walked back in, got dressed and inched right back in bed for a 'quick' rest. I knew you better than to believe that, so I used every bit of my strength to pull you limply to your feet. The endeavor wasn't exactly manageable, but we laughed anyway.

Together, we made the trip to your car, exchanging heartfelt glances the entire time. At least, I knew my heart felt them.

I watched the sun begin its ascent. Golden beams of light flickered through tree limbs and grazed my face while you drove along the riverside. We kept our thoughts to ourselves and listened to my favorite song play on the radio, confessing what I couldn't say, what I wouldn't say, what I knew I shouldn't say.

You dropped me off at my apartment, and I watched you drive away on that cold, brisk morning. The air bit my skin the way you pinched my nose. I felt goosebumps travel up my arms. I noticed your smell lingering on my shirt, and I smiled.

That was what love was supposed to feel like on Valentine's Day.

For you, it was just another morning.

The alarm blared in your ear canal like a fire alarm. Eyes squinted, you unraveled from my grip, sweaty and cramped to turn it off. You smiled knowing you had at least 30 extra minutes to sleep. I snored the entire night, and its 'charm' wore off after the first hour. Getting rest is exactly what you needed right now, but I just wouldn't let you. You griped into the pillow, agitated at my attempts to get you up.

Finally, you walked to the bathroom, so I would quit bickering. I think I was just too much sometimes. After taking a shower and getting dressed, you snuck back in bed when I wasn't looking. I didn't let you have one moment of shuteye as I tried pulling you to your feet. You laughed mockingly. I should've known how much you needed a moment of peace before the day had to start.

We got in your car and headed to our destination. The drive was tranquil; you got your moment of peace. A cheesy love song played in the background during our trip. You hated pop music with a passion, but your mind was preoccupied with all the work that needed to be done. At least the weather was nice.

I kissed you as you dropped me off at my apartment. You didn't enjoy my morning breath very much. In about thirty seconds, you were out of the driveway and on the way to work. I blamed it on the stress, but you were so busy that it never occurred to you exactly what day it was. I hoped it would come to you eventually.

Proper research proves women should have the right to choose

Zoé Richardson
NSU Student

Most everyone would like to think that their beliefs are formed from a well-rounded conscience and come from the heart. However, where we obtain the information that creates those beliefs is equally important.

Contrary to popular belief, our views do not always have to lean "right" or "left"; a just opinion should be made after analyzing the facts available as well as examining contrasting views.

By bringing this up, I am hoping to make a difference on how we approach the topic of abortion. It is a very sensitive subject, but nonetheless important.

First, we must establish what a credible source is and how to debunk other sources. An acronym I have found useful is CRAAP: Currency (date it was published), Relevance (who is the intended audience?), Authority (is the URL .gov, .edu, .org?), Accuracy (is it supported by evidence that can be verified elsewhere?), and Purpose (is its intention to inform/educate or is it to lead on political biases?).

Most of our miscommunications and disagreements simply stem from those who were misinformed from the beginning.

Is abortion a necessary right or an excuse to cover up accidental pregnancies? Some would have you believe the latter. However, due to Roe v. Wade and countless doctors' medical opinions, this procedure has saved women time and time again. The argument for what requires an abortion to be necessary is where the gray area begins.

It is my personal belief that a woman has a right over her own bodily autonomy and that each woman's choice is of her own and not to be made strictly by the government.

Conversely, those who label themselves as pro-life claim all fetuses have a right to life; that impregnated women must carry to full-term no matter the circumstances. Despite all the evidence gathered of how overrun and inefficient our adoption/foster system is, even though abortion rates have been on the decline, that abortion is not a common form of contraception, and the trauma that comes from forcing un-wanted pregnancies to be carried out.

At the end of the day, no woman or person is thrilled by the idea of abortion. If we want to help bring such procedures to even lower percentages, we must come together to collectively fight for better sex education, access to contraception, a more effective adoption process, and overall create a better world for lives to prosper.

Already facing the threatening effects of overpopulation, we must change our focus to creating a world for the human population to thrive instead of micromanaging each woman's body. If the goal is to give every life the chance they deserve, we must protect our women and our Earth first, otherwise there is no future to be had.

The Viewpoints page is a platform for any student to make their voice heard. Opinions expressed on this page are those of the individual and are not endorsed by The Current Sauce staff. If you would like to write for the paper, send your 250+ word opinion piece to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com.

GAME SCHEDULE

Tennis
2/16/19 11:00 a.m.
@Jack Fisher Lady Demon Complex
vs. Xavier (LA.)

Softball
2/15/19 1:30 p.m.
@Denton, TX
vs. Creighton

2/16/19 11:00 a.m.
@ Denton, TX
vs. Seton

2/17/19 1:30 p.m.
@ Denton, TX
vs. North Texas

2/19/19 5:00 p.m.
@ Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Fairleigh Dickinson

Baseball
2/15/19 6:30 p.m.
@Houston, TX
vs. Houston

2/16/19 6:30 p.m.
@ Houston, TX
vs. Houston

2/17/19 1:00 p.m.
@ Houston, TX
vs. Houston

2/20/19 6:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. LSU

(M) Basketball
2/13/19 7:00 p.m.
@Beaumont, TX
vs. Lamar

2/16/19 3:30 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. SFA

2/20/19 7:00 p.m.
@Houston, TX
vs. Houston Baptist

(W) Track & Field
2/15/19 11:00 a.m.
@Baton Rouge
vs. LSU

(M) Track & Field
2/15/19 11:00 a.m.
@Baton Rouge
vs. LSU

(W) Basketball
2/13/19 6:30 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. Lamar

2/16/19 1:00 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. SFA

Jazz Ferguson looks to make splash at NFL combine



Northwestern State's Jazz Ferguson makes leaping catch against Grambling State Tiger's Joseph McWilliams for a touchdown on Sept. 8, 2018. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Brian Jordan
Contributing Writer

Jazz Ferguson aims to impress the NFL scouts at the NFL Scouting Combine, the biggest stage leading up to the NFL draft, which takes place in Indianapolis from Feb. 26 - March 4.

Ferguson is one of 338 players in the nation invited to attend the combine, one of 48 wide receivers and the first Demon since Deon Simon in 2015 to be invited to the NFL combine. He hopes to be the eleventh Demon drafted into the NFL since 2002.

He declared for the NFL draft on Dec. 4 and waited anxiously until Jan. 29 when he received his official invitation to attend this year's combine.

"It was always a dream," Ferguson said. "I never thought I would be one of the few guys invited to the combine."

With the football season over, the combine is the final mark for athletes to put down on their resume to the NFL scouts. And with only 256 picks in the NFL draft, it's important for the 338 attendees to stand out from the competition.

Ferguson set six NSU records during his time at NSU, received All-American honors and was named the All-Southland Conference and All-Louisiana Offensive Player of the Year in his junior campaign.

By the end of the season, the 6-foot-5 receiver had 1,117 receiving yards on 66 catches, scoring 13 touchdowns and averaging 101.5 yards receiving per game.

"His catch radius is out of this room," Shelton Eppler quarterback for NSU said. "It's such a good feeling knowing if I threw it up, he was coming down with it."

Brad Laird, who just finished his first season as NSU's head coach, hopes that scouts can see what Jazz brings to the table off the field just as much as on it.

"As a head coach when you have someone of his caliber on the field that can exemplify leadership, strength and conditioning it makes your football team better," Laird said. "Scouts will see he's a great football player."

Ferguson focuses his efforts before the draft training at the Armed Sports Performance Training facility, which was founded by former NFL player Derrick Braylock.

"I need to keep pushing," Ferguson said. "The job isn't over yet."

Athlete of the Week: Malik Metoyer

Leron Massey
Reporter

From the very start, Malik Metoyer has been a noteworthy player for the Demons.

This season, Metoyer is thumping down his shots shooting 45% from the field, while shooting 77% from the free-throw line. This is an expansion from the past season, when he shot 40% from the field and 60% from the free-throw line.

A 6"7 200-pound senior from Clarence, Louisiana, Metoyer is a hometown product, having played for Lakeview High School.

While at Lakeview, he turned into a two-time all-district player who was the MVP of I-20 All-Star Classic. He drove his group to the quarterfinals as just a sophomore and furthermore helped his group achieve continuous Class 2A state title appearances. He also graduated with a 3.6 GPA and was also a member of the Beta Club and Healthy Youth Club.

His main objective for the season is to go to Katy, TX and win a title.

"It's my last year," said Metoyer. "It would mean a great deal to me."

During conference play, the senior has increased his shooting percent to 59% and his free throw rate to 85%. The senior is doing everything he can to enable his group to reach Katy and secure the title he's been dreaming of since his first days as a Demon.

The Demons are just two games behind the eighth seed in the conference. With eight games left in the season and five of those games on the road, the Demons get an opportunity to sneak in and cause some bedlam in the competition.

Metoyer just required three words to sum up his four-year residency at NSU: "Appreciative, blessed, and grateful." Metoyer says he cautiously prayed on which school he should sign onto before choosing Northwestern.

"I simply needed to go to the correct school and where my family could see me play; so why not remain home and be a local town hero?" he said.



Malik Metoyer, #15, stands guard against Sam Houston's Cameron Delaney. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

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Track athletes hang out in the new bleachers before practice. *Photo by Abbey Broussard.*

Walter P. Ledet Track and Field Complex begins renovations

Leanna Coy
Reporter

After receiving a grant from the Weyerhaeuser family, NSU's track and field complex has received multiple upgrades with more to come.

Demon News reported that the NSU Demons Unlimited Foundation received the $18,000 grant, and it has been used to pay for some of the renovations.

Mike Doty, director of facilities, said the most noticeable changes included the construction of a new press box and improved stands.

He said the press box still needs internet and power connected to it. A wheelchair ramp has also been added.

Yannik Gerland, sophomore, is a distance runner for track and field.

He said he thinks having the new press box and stands will be nice.

"It was time for a little change, but I still hope that more changes will be done," Gerland said.

Track and Field Head Coach Mike Heimerman said although the main renovations have been completed, there will still be more changes taking place. A few worn-down spots on the long jump area and the track will soon be resurfaced.

Heimerman said replacements to the wood on the tracks' pavilion are coming as well.

Heimerman said the track team has been excited about the renovations to the field.

"It shows the athletes that they're appreciated," Heimerman said.

142 students attend spring Career Fair

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

A total of 142 students checked into the Career Fair held on Feb. 12, 2019, in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom to connect with the 38 companies that attended.

The Career Fair, held in both the spring and fall semesters, was hosted by the Career Center located on the third floor of the Student Union. Career Fair is designed for students of all classifications to come and have an opportunity to network with different employers from a variety of industries. Students can come and learn about internship and full-time job opportunities before graduation.

The Career Fair is also angled towards helping seniors close to graduation make connections in the workforce.

"We hold them twice a year to also help graduating students who do not have a job offer yet," Assistant Director of Career Services Randi Washington said.

Accounting student and junior Imani Ricks has attended the Career Fair all three years she has been in NSU. This year she said was "the best" because grad fest was not held in the same room and that allowed the Career Center to invite more companies.

"I honestly think more students should come," Ricks said. "It doesn't matter what your major is because there is something available for almost everyone. I look forward to the next career fair."

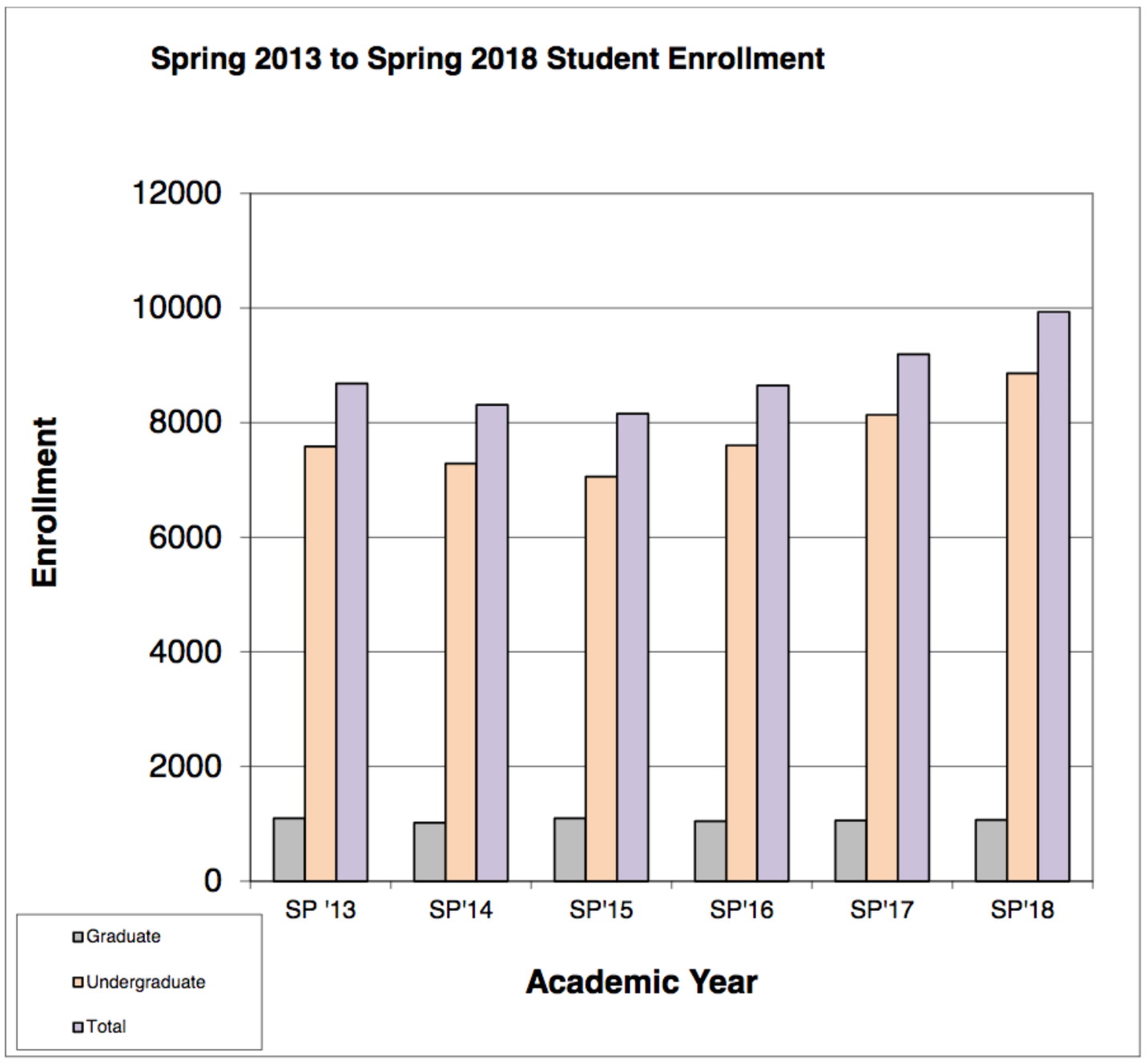
This year, the Career Center incorporated a new platform called "Hand Shake." It allows for students to connect even better with the employers and it personalizes career recommendations based on student and alumni interests and connections. "We have done more and we can do more now that we have Hand Shake," Washington said.

Job Location & Development Officer Karen Loach emphasizes that anytime there are employers on campus it is important to come out and meet them.

"In the digital age, everyone thinks applying online is the way to go, but often times recruiters and companies really still want that personal connection before they move forward to hiring people," Loach said.

"Be on the lookout for our next event and of course always come by the Career Center if you need help," Randi said.

An NSU career consultant can be reached at 318-357-4050, or by the office on the 3rd floor of the Student Union, room 306.



Over the past 6 spring semesters, the amount of enrolled students fluctuated. *Submitted graphic.*



NSU reaches record enrollment yet again

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

NSU's enrollment this spring of 10,155 students broke the school's spring enrollment record compared to 9,931 students last spring.

One of the major footsteps to gain this milestone was having strong public relations and marketing strategies in the past years.

NSU has always had a strong focus on leadership, and that is expressed in its recent enrollment management. Jana Lucky, the director of enrollment management, took the position in August and has been focusing on recruiting good students and keeping said students.

"We're not one of those uncaring universities. We're more genuinely concerned about our student's being successful," Lucky said.

She states that the team must aggressively go out and get students and analyze enrollment data to solve the problem of students deciding not to return to NSU.

According to Lucky, 88 percent of traditional freshmen re-enrolled for spring this year, but the school noticed that students dropped out between their first and second year over the summer. Knowing this for the future, she plans to have a huge push to encourage students to re-enroll once pre-registration comes.

One thing Lucky recommends for freshman and sophomores to change is to take face-to-face classes rather than online courses since this has been a common trend among students struggling in their first year and dropping out.

Data from last year's enrollment can be found at http://oir.nsula.edu/assets/Uploads/2017-2018-Factbook.pdf.

Quote of the Week

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X

2 **Arts & Living:** Newly opened Legacy Café is already a Natchitoches staple

3 **Viewpoints:** MyMathLab royally sucks

4 **Sports:** Beer to be sold at NSU baseball games

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! So, I'm hearing everybody get excited about Mardi Gras, but I'm new to Louisiana, so this would be my first time experiencing it! What should I expect?

A Hey Guys so Mardi Gras is the most exciting and hectic time of the year. Here are some things to remember!

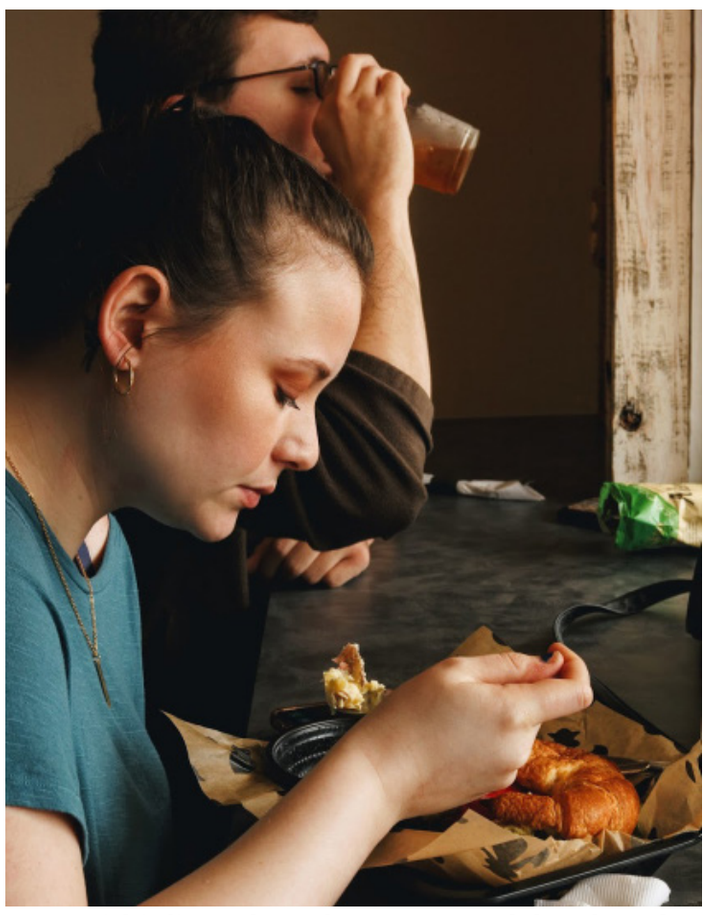
1. If you're going to NOLA, carpool. First timers should never try making that drive by themselves. New Orleans traffic is far denser than Natchitoches.
2. Travel in groups. Everything is better with friends. Stay close and be aware of your surroundings.
3. Stay hydrated. You don't wanna be the friend that is unable to remember what happened.
4. However, if one of your friends is that person, then you're accountable for that friend. Don't let that one intoxicated friend roam around NOLA alone.
5. Have a designated driver. Someone has to be a sober monitor. But honestly, who's gonna really do that? Best to just save up some extra cash and plan to UBER around.
6. Get your work done before you go! Though NSU gives us a break for Mardi Gras, don't be the procrastinator. It's a lot easier to forget about your problems when you don't have homework.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



One dish available at the Legacy Café is the sweet potato bisque soup. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*



Anna Birbiglia and Jacob Bennett grab lunch at the Legacy Café. *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

Newly-opened Legacy Café is already a Natchitoches staple

Anna Birbiglia
Reporter

If you, too, are not a Natchitoches local, you've probably never heard of the Ben D. Johnson Center. It's located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and has recently opened the Legacy Café.

The small café is located just inside the community center with it's very modern and fresh-looking interior. The bright and modern atmosphere is refreshing and welcomed in a sea of restaurants that are best described as homey and charming. There is even a garden to gaze at through the windows while you munch.

The café has only been open for about a month, but it already feels like a staple of the community. People were bustling about and customers started to file in around noon. The entire place smells beautifully of burgers, which I have only heard good things about. I myself chose to get the curry chicken croissant sandwich.

I waited for my food for a good amount of time, so if you are in a rush this might not be the place for you. When my food had arrived, I was impressed by the quality at sight. I paid around $10 total for my meal, and received what I would expect to get from a bistro from home.

The croissant was both crispy and airy which aided in the supple and flavorful chicken salad. The curry in the chicken salad is exactly what it needed to be. It is smoky against the added apple which is a beautiful combination. After taking a bite I thought, "Oh yes this is what salt, fat, acid and heat is about."

Their menu had many options, but what impressed me most were the vegetarian ones. They had what I would consider to be the best all-veggie menu in the city. Though I myself am not a vegetarian, I cannot wait to try it out.

The staff are all super friendly and accommodating, which makes their mission even better. Since the Legacy Café is through the Ben D. Johnson Center, all of the funds raised are going straight back to the community. Simply put, their goal is the success of the community, both socially and economically. For that alone, I will be more than willing to visit this restaurant before heading to another cheap stop, not to mention the food will most likely knock my socks off as well.

WRITERS WANTED

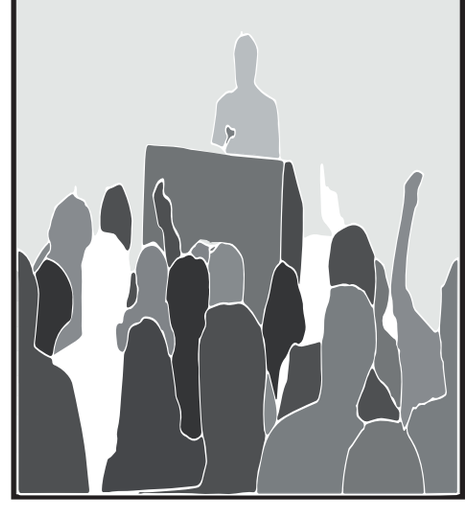
NEWS

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Apply for The Current Sauce on Orgsync or pick up an application in Kyser 227.



Eyes of Argus

That Planet (I Can Feel It)

Julianna Carmouche

Isn't it pretty?
That planet that feels so far away.
I know that there's someone there.
I know that they're there.
When they wish upon me,
I can feel it.
Every night,
I can feel it.
I don't know what they wish for,
but I can feel it.
Or why they need a wish,
but I can feel it.
I don't know if their wishes corne true,
but I wish for them to.
I hope they corne true because I wish for them too.

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Wednesday, February 20
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Alita: Battle Angel (PG-13)
Monday- Thursday - 4:10 6:45 9:20

Happy Death Day 2U (PG-13)
Monday-Thursday - 4:30 7:10 9:30

Isn't It Romantic (PG-13)
Monday-Thursday - 4:30 7:10 9:30

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part (PG)
Monday-Thursday - 4:20 7:00 9:20

What Men Want (R)
Monday-Thursday - 4:10 6:50 9:20

The Upside (PG-13)
Monday-Thursday - 3:50 6:40 9:20

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!!

(318) 352-5109
Box Office Opens 30 Mins Before First Show
1011 Keyser Ave.
www.acadianacinemas.com

NSU Jazz Orchestra to perform Monday

David West
Director of Communications

NATCHITOCHES – Musician Victor Rendón will perform with The NSU Jazz Orchestra Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public. Galindo Rodriguez will conduct the Jazz Orchestra.

The orchestra will perform "Portrait of Louis Armstrong" by Duke Ellington and transcribed by David Berger, "New Suit for Zoot" by Les Hooper, "Just a Pretty Little Thing" by Tom Kubis," "Latin Dream" by Joe d'Etienne, "Café Sin Leche" by Rendón and arranged by Joe Mannozzi , "One Mint Julep" by R. Toomes and arranged by Rendón, and "Blue Mambo" and "True Flight" by Rendón and arranged by Mannozzi and Rendón.

Rendón, a drummer/percussionist/educator/composer/arranger is a sought after New York City musician who has worked with Mongo Santamaria, Chico O'Farrill, Carlos "Patato" Valdés, Ray Santos, Grupo Caribe, The Latin Jazz Coalition, The "New" Xavier Cugat Orchestra, Los Más Valientes, Grupo Latin Vibe, Rudy Calzado's Cubarama, Henry Brun and the Latin Playerz, and many others. He currently performs with the acclaimed salsa group, Grupo Latin Vibe as well as his own group, Blue Mambo. Rendón is also author of "The Art of Playing Timbales" published by Music in Motion Films and currently teaches at Lehman College in the Bronx, where he co-leads the Latin Jazz Ensemble with his long-time colleague, Armando Rodriguez.

As an author/transcriber, Rendon's work has appeared in Modern Drummer, DRUM!, Percussive Notes, Drumfiles, DCI Music Video, RRR Education Newsletter (Reading-Writing-Rhythm) by LP, and Warner Bros. Publications. He is author of "The Art of Playing Timbales" published by Music in Motion Films and is former publisher of his own semi-annual magazine called the Latin Percussionist.

As an educator, Rendón currently conducts the Latin Jazz Ensemble at Lehman College. He holds a Bachelor of Music from The University of North Texas and has taught instrumental music and Latin percussion classes in the New York Public School system and at the Boy's Harbor Performing Arts Center. He has also conducted clinics/workshops for the Department of Education in New York City, PASIC 2000 (Percussive Arts Society International Convention), KOSA NYC, Global Praise at Princeton University and the Eddie Ming Drum School in Bermuda.

Have an opinion to share?
Put a fork in our inbox.

Submit your piece to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com for editorial consideration.

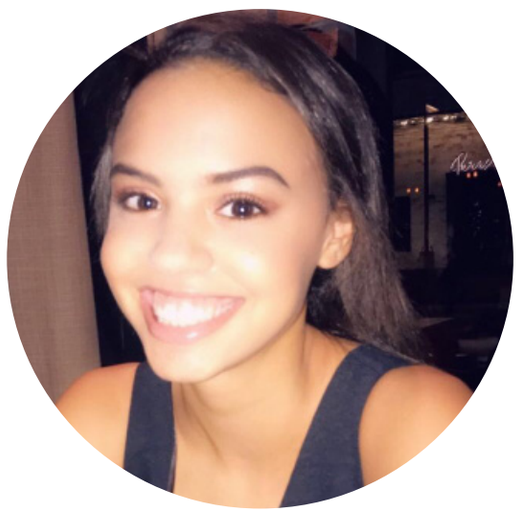
NSYou

Who is your most supportive professor?



"Dr. Stave from Scholars' College is the most supportive professor I have had because she is so upbeat and passionate when she teaches. She is always complimenting students and always there to help them whenever needed. She is also one hell of a chef!"

Mya Melancon
Classification: Junior
Major: Secondary English Education



"Reatha Cox, head of the Presidential Leadership Program. Not only has she been supportive through my school work but outside of the class as well. I recently went through some hard times and still remember her exact words. Mrs. Cox said, 'We are going to get you through this, you are going to be okay.'"

Christina Gilbert
Classification: Freshman
Major: Exercise Science and Human Performance



"The most supportive professor I have had at NSU has been Rick St. Peter. I had him in the fall semester for Acting I, and it was the first acting class he taught since he was a new faculty member. I had never taken an acting class before him and he was super supportive. Anything we did in his class he would approach in a very logical way. Any monologue we did he would always give his honest opinion which is what ever actor wants to grow."

Dylan Fuselier
Classification: Freshman
Major: Theatre Major



"The most supportive professor I have had is Dr. Hudlow. He's done nothing but encourage me to get and be better. On multiple occasions, he's helped me through my struggles with mental health whether is was going out of his way to talk to me about it or ask how I'm doing or just being a light presence in class/CAPA. "

Marissa Barentine
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Music Business

Depression: the latest trend

Mark Alexander
NSU Student

Are you happy? There are chances that you'll say no. And that's okay. Are you sad? There is a possibility you'll say yes. Can't hold that against you. But would you go as far as to say you're depressed? Internet culture would also make this a possibility but let's be honest here. Are you really depressed? Or does the depressing culture of today's world and the sudden trendiness to be sad and lonely and melancholy make you "depressed"?

Think about it. How many times do you go on social media and find a meme about someone wanting to die or a meme about being depressed or a sad Bart Simpson edit? You might find the answer to be a little more surprising than you'd expect. I believe that social media plays a factor in how depression is viewed. People confuse being sad as opposed to being depressed and while it's true that they are similar, one is a common emotion and the other is a severe medical diagnosis and should be taken seriously.

Don't get me wrong, I too am guilty of making jokes about serious situations. In fact, in moderation, I believe it brings a much-needed sense of levity to keep us from being completely upset about a certain situation. Note that I said in Moderation. Why is it that today's internet culture allows us in indulge in negative feelings galore but rarely lets us feast on anything positive? Why are we so attracted to the things that make us relate to feeling like utter crap? Turns out the answer may be as psychological as Depression itself.

According to an article I researched on PsychologyToday.com, people tend to search and relate to unhappiness for the following reasons: deep-rooted insecurity or lack of self-esteem, human natural pride of realism and the belief that realism means focusing on the negative, and many other reasons listed on their site. It would seem this would be reliable as to why we tend to try to relate to things that are sad and/or depressing.

Now, what about the depression culture itself? What does it look like? How do we identify what is so obviously toxic to society to the point where we have made depression a modern trend? It usually looks like a sad edited video or a weirdly depressing yet funny meme about wanting to die or being depressed. And while these things might make you say, "Well I don't have to worry about those things, it's just content from the internet." Remember to be cautious in this modern-day culture and relating to these things. It could psychologically decrease your mood inadvertently.

I'm not saying that most people aren't depressed. I just think it's strange how depression became so mainstream. I wanted to dive in and figure out what exactly is going on. Part of me does, however, find it insensitive and ill-advised to just say you're depressed based off no real evidence. To claim being depressed because "everyone is depressed" is not only unfair to those with the actual diagnosis, it's false to your actual character. Yes, life can be hard and terrible but that doesn't mean you're depressed. And you shouldn't let the internet, or any media warp your mind into how you really feel. If you think you do have depression, get a proper diagnosis from a counselor. And if it's confirmed, get therapy or medication or anything relating to actual help. Don't just let media sources and memes tell you that you're depressed.

MyMathLab royally sucks

Matthew Bailey
NSU Student

MyMathLab is a great program that allows teachers to over-assign work while simultaneously adding needless expenses to students. MML is tedious and overbearing, allowing teachers to simply set the assignments and forgot about it until it comes time to put in grades three days after the final. While some teachers may be responsible in their use of MML, there is always someone who will abuse their power.

MML is not expensive if you consider the cost of textbooks, but textbooks are notoriously overpriced and MML is an expense on top of textbooks and calculators. Professors, once students themselves, should understand that finances are not easy, yet they still use a program designed to cost students money. Simply having an email ending in '@nsula.edu' gives free access to extremely expensive programs such as Microsoft Office, AutoCAD, etc., but not, MML the latest in scams from Pearson™.

While students suffer from MML, the teachers benefit. The program takes away the grading and commenting that was previously done by hand. Now, the professor can set assignments ahead of time, have them open and close at certain dates, and have them automatically graded for correctness. A great concept, but open to abuse. The teachers don't have to consider how much homework they're assigning because they don't have to grade it. MML, in a single blow, increases student homework while nearly eliminating any "teacher homework."

Pearson has studies posted on their website about the benefits of MML, but from my own experiences, as well as others, MML does not promote learning. If anything, it crushes any enthusiasm a student may hold for the class through overwhelming amounts of randomly-generated busywork. MML is a scam. It is frustrating and disappointing that the NSU Math Department cares so little about their students that they help perpetrate it.

The "E" word is problematic

Brianna Corley
Contributing Writer

Exposure has become a soured term to those in the art community as it has begun to replace something far more valuable: actually getting paid.

In this current age of the social media phenomena, it is far from an uncommon occurrence for companies to reach out to freelancers in order to uphold a continuous stream of content. And in direct correlation, these businesses, from well-known to upstarting, seemingly always expect artists to do any amount of work in exchange of experience and perhaps their most favorite term, exposure.

One may argue that young artists often work for free as this said exposure is the sole way to gain betterment within their own respective fields. There is a key difference between when one offers services without expense to companies and being sought after with the outright expectation of doing considerable work for free.

Alongside this, the idea of unpaid work being a form of gateway to something greater is often skewed as there often stands to be no direct connection between unpaid work and more opportunities. By asking so much from freelancers without any monetary compensation, businesses prove exactly how much they believe the sought-after artist is worth.

This growing phenomenon of the "e" word is but another obstacle freelancers have found themselves actively facing, a notion to the constant growth and expectations set within the world they interact with. Through these constant changes the one fact that remains is that those in artistic freelance fields must both decipher and continue to stand firm against the shifting tides, for better or for worse.

I thought I was healing

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

It's crazy how the power of convincing can be. You can convince others that you are on your a-game when you feel like everything is falling apart, you can trick your brain into liking a certain food and the craziest thing you can do is convince yourself that you're okay.

You can talk to people and hear certain things and when you hear something or see something that hurts you, you feel your heart drop. But you tell yourself that you're okay and that it doesn't hurt you.

You fake a brave face and you start mentally preparing yourself to face the day. You work on guarding your heart and find a way to distract yourself from feeling hurt. With each day that passes, you get better at faking your smile, your laugh, your persona.

After a while, you get so good at faking it you believe that you actually are okay. You feel like you are on top of the world and that everything is finally going right for once in your life. You start getting closer to people and finding new things to love and dream about and everything is fine and dandy until you realize that it's not. You find yourself slowly slipping away. You pull away from the people you consider close friends and you don't know who to trust. You don't want to talk to anyone about anything and nothing interests you anymore. You want to quit. You're silently crying out for help but no one is listening.

Faking it is a temporary solution. It's a way of running from your problems, and when you can't run anymore, you get stuck. Your heart starts racing and you start sweating and getting dizzy and everything becomes so much that you start panicking and crying in the bathroom stall. It's in that moment that you realize that you were never okay. And that is okay. Sometimes not feeling is better than feeling anything at all. I thought I was healing, but I just stopped feeling.

GAME SCHEDULE

Tennis
2/22/19 1:00 p.m.
@Denton, TX
vs. North Texas

Softball
2/20/19 1:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Fairleigh Dickinson

2/22/19 3:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Saint Louis

2/23/19 12:30 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Houston Baptist

2/24/19 12:30 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Baseball
2/20/19 6:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. LSU

2/22/19 6:30 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs.Southern

2/23/19 1:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Southern

2/26/19 6:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. UL Monroe

(M) Basketball
2/20/19 7:00 p.m.
@Houston, TX
vs. Houston Baptist

2/27/19 6:30 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. Incarnate Word

(W) Basketball
2/21/19 6:30 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. Houtson Baptist

2/27/19 6:30 p.m.
@San Antonio, TX
vs. Incarnate word

NSU and LSU showdown delayed until March 12

Keator Poleman
Associate Editor

The Demons Baseball game against the LSU Tigers, originally scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 20, has been delayed due to inclement weather. The home-opener will instead be played on March 12 at Brown-Stroud Field at 6 p.m.

It will be the first game against the Tigers in Natchitoches since the 2014 season.

Head Coach Bobby Barbier said he thinks the Demons will compete well.

"I think it'll be nice to have them at home. I think that's going to hopefully play in our favor," said Barbier.

Barbier added that unlike football, the baseball team is preparing to play a game more so than preparing to play an opponent.

The Demons ended last season with a 38-24 record and went 18-12 in Southland Conference games.

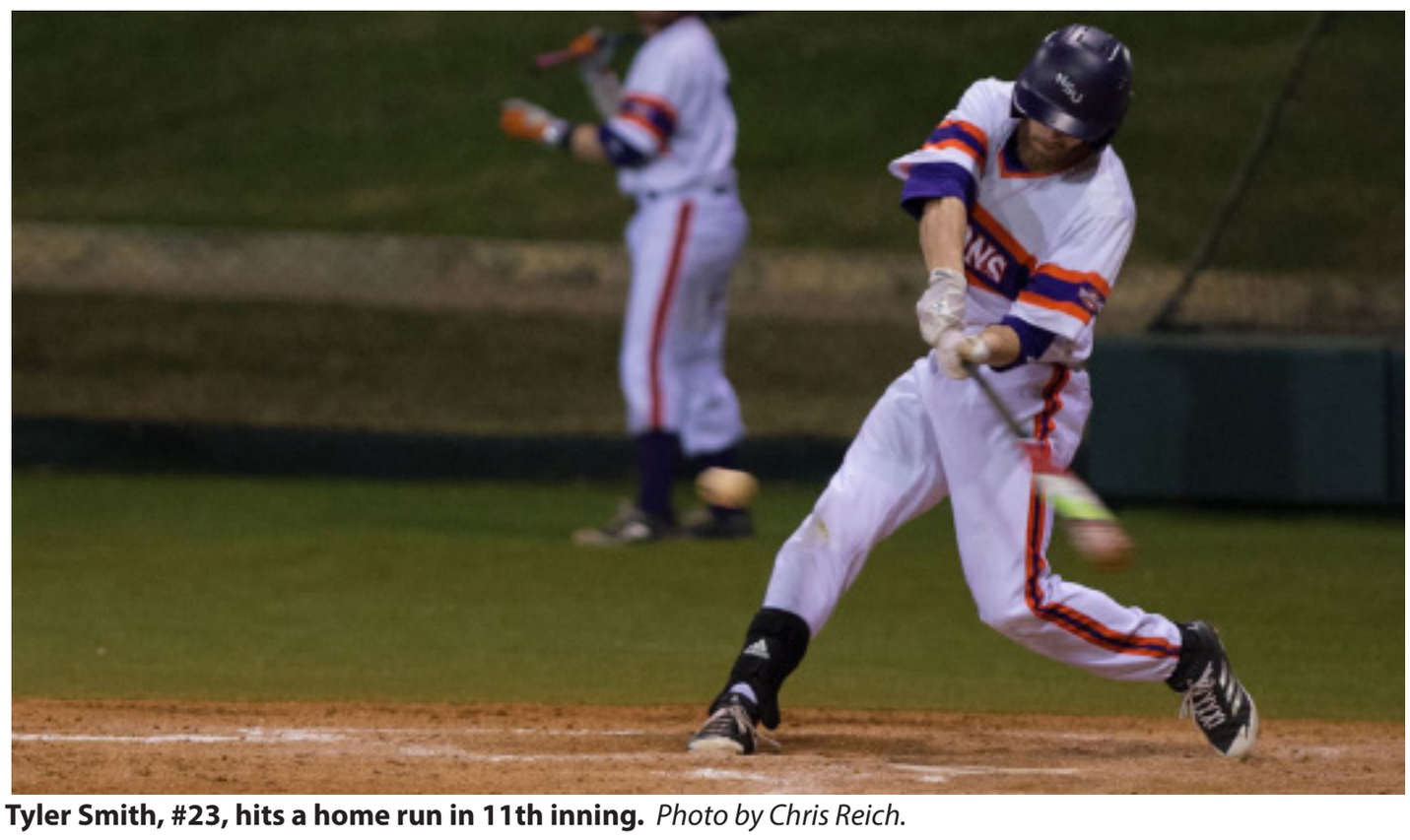
Paul D. Mainieri, LSU's head coach, said the Tigers are expecting another great game against NSU. The teams last faced each other at the NCAA Regionals in Corvallis, Oregon, last June where the Tigers beat the Demons 9-5.

"Northwestern played great last year as they are extremely well coached and have some very good baseball players," said Mainieri. He added that he would not be surprised if both teams faced off at another NCAA Regionals.

Mainieri said the Tigers are mentally ready to go against the Demons and thinks it will be a tough game.

"It seems we always have hard-fought games with Northwestern State," said Mainieri.

Students may attend for free. Regular seating for adults and children ages 3-12 is $25, and children under two get in free.



Tyler Smith, #23, hits a home run in 11th inning. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Beer to be sold at NSU baseball games



Stock Photo.

Leron Massey
Reporter

The athletic office has declared that the baseball home-opener against LSU, which has been postponed to March 12, will most likely have alcohol for sale..

Last season, the athletic division collaborated with Demon's Baseball to form a "cooking club" where individuals could cook and drink what they desire. To ensure this is done in a protected domain for fans, a sack check will be done at the two of section to Brown-Stroud Field. Liquor will only be sold until the finish of the 6th inning.

The Demons baseball crew is coming off a Southland conference title. Additionally, showed up in the 2018 D1 baseball title where the demons lost to the Oregon State Beavers and won against the San Diego State Aztecs. The following day they faced off against their in-state rival LSU where they were defeated 9 to 5. Fortunately for the Demons, an eagerly awaited rematch where they plan to get vengeance.

"We do studies with our season ticket holders toward the finish of every year and ask them a huge number from questions concerning their game day experience," said Haley Blount-Taitano partner AD for external affairs. "One thing that reliably comes up is our fans might want for us to move liquor."

Northwestern State University isn't the only school in Louisiana that is beginning to pitch liquor to enhance the fan experience at sporting events. Southeastern, University of Louisiana Lafayette and LSU are also moving to include alcohol at their athletic events for fans.

NSU is collaborating with Maggio's Package Liquors to enable them to sell alcohol. Maggio's is an authorized seller and all of their bartenders have an ADL permit. There will be a designated area where alcohol will be sold. After entering the zone, fans will have their ID's checked and receive a wrist band which will permit them to purchase an alcoholic drink of their choice.

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A panoramic photo captures the scene of the crash after the drama unfolded. *Photo by Christian Boudreaux.*

Questions remain after Tuesday's wreck on University Parkway

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

On Tuesday afternoon, a car chase between the police and a suspect in a red car ended in front of the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library at the four-way intersection of Sam Sibley Drive, Howell Street and University Parkway.

According to the Natchitoches Parish Journal, the incident occurred around 3:40 p.m. At the scene, at least one police car and the red car being chased were involved in a wreck.

An NSU student who requested anonymity witnessed the incident up-close.

"I was right there when it all happened," the student said. The student was sitting at the stoplight by the four-way intersection and saw several police vehicles chasing a red car. The red car was driving on the shoulder side of the road at high speed and ran into one of the cars at the stop light behind the anonymous source. There was a mass collision as that car then hit the car in front of it and so on.

"I saw it in my rearview mirror, and before the car behind me ran into me, I took off," the anonymous student said. The student then pulled over and watched what happened next.

"The individual that was driving the car that was getting chased got out of the car and started running towards the school," the anonymous source said.

A second witness, NSU freshman Lacy Martin, said she saw what happened after the suspect got out of his car and started running. She was sitting in her car in the faculty parking lot of Watson Library facing the four-way intersection.

"I'm just sitting here listening to music before I head to work, and a bunch of cop cars started piling up," Martin said. "Then I see a dude in white running, and I saw cops running after him."

Martin said the suspect was running on campus toward her, but before the suspect could get to the grassy area on campus, he was tackled and wrestled to one of the cop cars.

A few moments after the suspect was tackled, Martin said she saw "three or four" officers in civilian clothing, but wearing bulletproof vests, running onto campus and "it looks like they are chasing someone else," she said.

Allie Ellerbe, another NSU student, said in a Facebook message that she saw police running behind "the caf," a common nickname among students for Iberville Dining Hall.

"They were also in one of the UP 1 parking lots. I also saw a bunch of undercover cop cars coming in from every entrance near the caf," Ellerbe said.

NSU campus police denied any claim of a suspect on campus grounds and refused to comment further.



The administration and faculty of NSU attend a lunch in August 2018. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Faculty diversity at NSU found lacking

Cayman Watson
NSU Student

While Northwestern State University seems like a diverse melting pot by one quick glance of the student body, but this is not so true for the faculty.

According to the NSU fact book, which is a book of information collected by the Office of institutional research, the 2017 fall enrollment among freshman was 10,572 with 7,446 of these students being female and the other 3,126 being male.

According to Mrs. Brittany Blackwell Broussard from the office of inclusion and diversity, when asked if the student body itself is diverse she said, "about 41% of the student population identifies as a race/ethnicity other than White, non-Hispanic."

While the number of diversity among the students is above average for the area, the faculty does not match this.

According to the NSU fact book as of fall 2017, 302 faculty members are employed here, most of those employees being White.

The university employs 250 white faculty while it employs three Asian faculty, one American Indian/ Alaskan Native faculty, 15 Black faculty, 13 Hispanic faculty, and 15 Foreign faculty according to the NSU fact book.

During our interview Mrs. Blackwell Broussard said "only 16% of the faculty identify as a member of a minority group. We are not only lacking a presence of different racial/ ethnic minorities along with those of different religious backgrounds."

The enrollment of NSU is continually growing with the school setting record enrollment highs every fall it seems, it is time that the faculty grow with it as well.

When asked if she thinks that NSU needs a more diverse faculty to continue to serve students correctly, Mrs. Blackwell Broussard responded with "yes, I think so. I am not saying that one cannot learn from someone with a back ground that is different from them. But there is research that shows that diversity among faculty will benefit the students."

HOTsauce

Editor's Note: Back in the 1970s, The Current Sauce ran a recurring column called "Hot Sauce," where any student could submit a question directly to NSU's president, and he would answer them in the following issue. NSU President Chris Maggio decided to help us bring that column back.

Q: Since you were a student, how has diversity at NSU changed?

A: Maggio: Northwestern has encouraged and promoted diversity for more than three decades and continues to work toward expanded student, faculty and staff diversity.

The university's enrollment has reflected an increasingly diverse student body since the 1980's, and the ongoing aggressive recruitment and involvement of minority and international students in every facet of student life underscores the strong commitment to diversity at Northwestern.

Northwestern has intensified its efforts in recent years to attract more minority faculty and staff members, and diversity among university personnel has increased.

There is also increased diversity in athletics, creative and performing arts, social and cultural groups and other student organizations and activities, and our emphasis on expanding diversity in those areas is continuing.

The University Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been at the forefront of initiatives to assure and expand diversity at Northwestern, and that group's progress is noteworthy.

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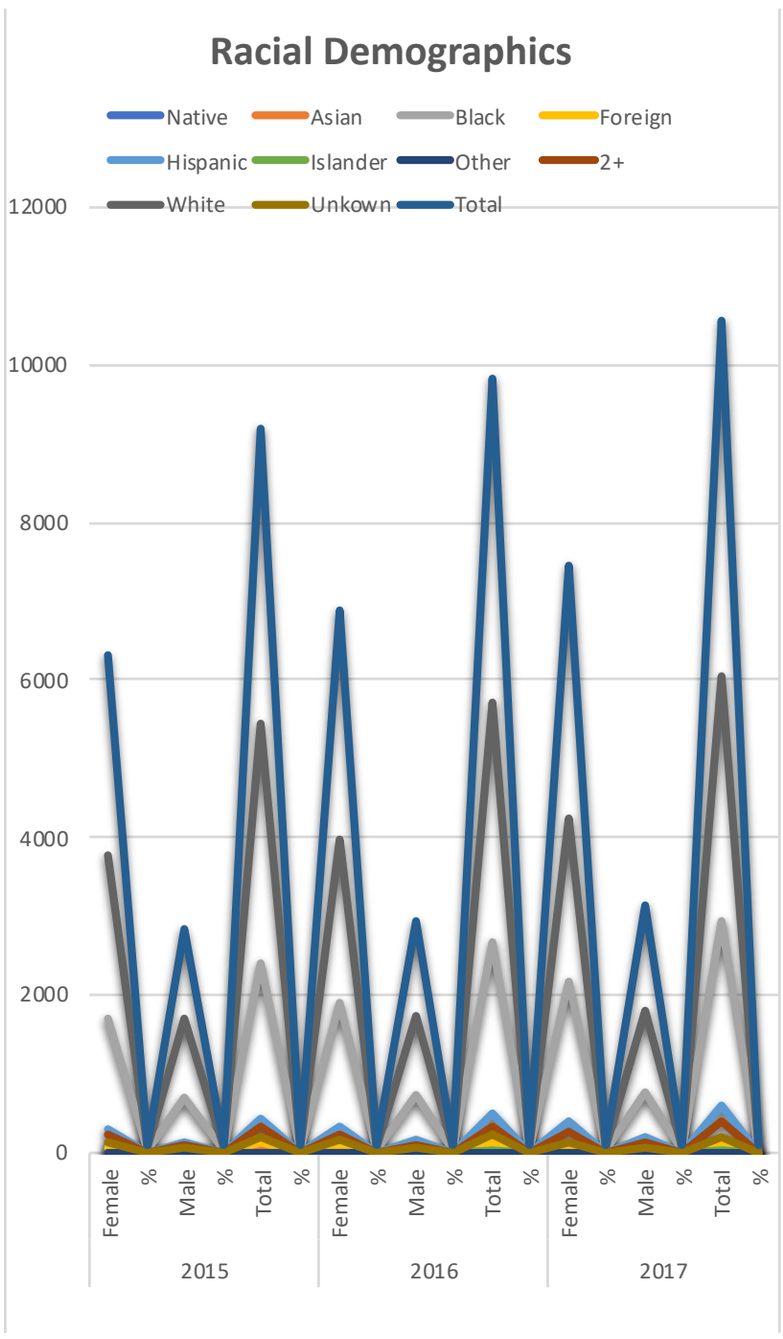
Quote of the Week

"The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression."

W.E.B. Du Bois

2 **News:** What's with all these potholes?
3 **Feature:** Why is Front Street so different from two blocks back?
4 **Arts & Living:** Remembering Clementine Hunter
5 **Viewpoints:** Hands off Mekayla Jenkins' hair.
6 **Sports:** AOTW: Victoria Miller

Northwestern State, post-segregation



According to a 2017-2018 Factbook report, Broussard said: "As of fall 2017, non-white minority students make up 42 percent and white non-Hispanic students make up 58 percent of NSU population." *Graphic by Brianna Fife.*

Keator Poleman
Associate Editor

Northwestern State, much like the rest of the South, was a racially powered keg during the Civil Rights era.

Many students, particularly those at The Current Sauce, committed themselves to long-held beliefs of racism.

Pre-integration

The Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was previously called, was established in 1884 for whites only. It would take almost 100 years before integration was actually achieved.

Four black students, who in 1954 were denied admission, made an appeal to the state Board of Education. The case would be based on economic discrimination, their attorney said.

The Sauce, in a 1963 headline, said the paper will refuse to use material which advocates for integration. The author continued with a comparison of the advocacy to "propaganda."

The writer said: "Northwestern is a college steeped in the traditions of the Old South. Any material advocating or depicting integration in any manner will not be used."

Post-integration

NSU began accepting black students after losing a lawsuit in 1965.

In a survey, conducted by The Current Sauce in 1971, 80 percent of students favored integration. However, only 60 percent favored complete social integration.

One student, in a 1971 letter to the editor, said of integration: "The white students, on the whole, are interested in an education and know what a struggle it can be. They could care less about taking the extra effort to show discrimination toward their fellow students of any race, color, creed, or nationality."

Racial politics have changed some in the 50 years since integration. While NSU is making strives in becoming a more diverse university, it has not completely removed racism.

In 2015, a Demon baseball player wore blackface in an Instagram photo that went viral. The team issued an apology soon after.

Brittany Blackwell Broussard, coordinator of the Center for Inclusion and Diversity, has been head of the Center since it was created in 2016. Dean of Students Frances Conine, in an interview with the News Bureau, said the Center was founded due to requests by students to make NSU more inclusive.

According to a 2017-2018 Factbook report, Broussard said: "As of fall 2017, non-white minority students make up 42 percent and white non-Hispanic students make up 58 percent of NSU population."



Front Street. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

vs.



The intersection of Sybil and Fourth. *Photo by Tiffany Trahan.*

Mayor Posey comments on city's demographic divide and disproportionate infrastructure

Anson Ballow
Associate Editor

Established in 1714, the City of Natchitoches has developed from the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase to a regional cultural hotspot. An important town for agriculture in its formative years, Natchitoches suffered a steady decline in growth and agricultural production through the 20th century.

Starting in the mid-1970s, a shift was made towards designing a historic district centered around the rich history of the town. Since then, Natchitoches has developed into a successful tourist attraction. Aside from starring in multiple feature films, it is home to the Louisiana Hall of Fame, a wide array of historic man-made and natural landmarks, and a myriad of festivals throughout the year.

On the surface, it isn't hard to see how Natchitoches has been voted one of the best small towns in the Southern United States. However, underneath the glamour of history lies inequality stemming from Natchitoches' long history. Within the span of four city blocks from Front Street to Fourth Street, the wealth gap in the city is displayed clearly for all to see.

"The Historic District is the oldest part of town, and crossing the river, you enter East Natchitoches. When I was growing up, East Natchitoches was more developed, with better roads and schools," said Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey. "There's always been a bit of east versus west mentality here."

It seems that as Natchitoches has developed, the wealthier elite settled in the Eastern part of the town, while the "working poor" developed in the Western side. Following desegregation in the 1960s, this racial and economic divide has been kicked to the backseat of the issues list, as the city focused on strengthening the town economy through tourism.

Now leading a city on the precipice of a new beginning, Mayor Lee Posey and his team have taken an aggressive approach to repair and unite the city.

"In the past, Natchitoches has not done a good job keeping up with the city's infrastructure needs," said Posey. "Over the last six years, we've spent around $40 million repairing and improving our town's infrastructure.

"We try to be fair in dispersing the funds around the city so that all areas of the city can be improved, not just the most visited ones," said Posey. "We're really behind, and it's time to catch up. Streets, sewage, drainage and electrical lines are the main focus."

While slow-moving, the results have already begun to speak for themselves.

"These things take time," said Posey. "However, we have people of all types in the community coming together and taking an interest in repairing the town we all call home. There are groups cleaning up places in the community they never would before, and it's this community-driven initiative that will eventually bring us together."



Have an opinion to share?
Put a fork in our inbox.

Submit your piece to
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com
for editorial consideration.



A quote from Ben D. Johnson hangs on Legacy Café's wall. *Photo by Victoria Perkins.*

Ben D. Johnson's Role in Natchitoches' Black History

Leanna Coy
Reporter

From Legacy Café to the Ben D. Johnson Educational Center, Natchitoches residents still see and feel the impact of Ben Johnson's work.

Johnson, who died in 2005 at the age of 94, was a philanthropist who worked fiercely for his community, according to the center's website.

Johnson once asked, "Everything you do in society or business is for the people, so why don't we concentrate on things that help society help itself?"

Edward Ward, member of the center's board of directors, said Johnson owned funeral homes, a building service and an insurance company. Ward said that through the insurance company, Johnson was able to finance churches, homes and assembly halls for minority citizens being marginalized and overlooked at the time.

"Mr. Johnson wanted to be sure he gave back to the community and that his giving would not end with his passing," Ward said.

Claire Prymus, Johnson's niece, founded the center after her uncle passed. The center is located on Martin Luther King Drive in a building Johnson had previously renovated into a shopping center for minority businesses.

Johnson's holdings were among the largest minority-owned enterprises in Louisiana. Now the center is expanding on what Johnson started.

In an email, Prymus said the first stage of the center is its employability training program, "conducted in a culinary environment teaching young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not working, all the critical skills necessary to be successful in the work place."

Legacy Café, located next to the educational center, is involved with the training program. Dallas Russell, executive director of the program, said all income from the café goes back into the nonprofit.

"The project is to give homage to the legacy of Ben Johnson," Prymus said. "The hope here is to transform lives and build community."

Remembering George Stanley Lewis

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Reverend George Stanley Lewis was born in New Orleans on December 28, 1933. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Science/Physical Education from Grambling State College and a master's degree from Northwestern State University.

According to NSUTraditions, he was the Director of Administration and Special Education in the Natchitoches Parish school system. He also served as a coach, pastor, teacher, and a lifetime member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. Mr. Lewis passed away on February 26, 2013.

In 1999, he had the honor of being the first African-American inducted to Northwestern State's Long Purple Line. Currently 131 alumni are inducted into the line since 1990.

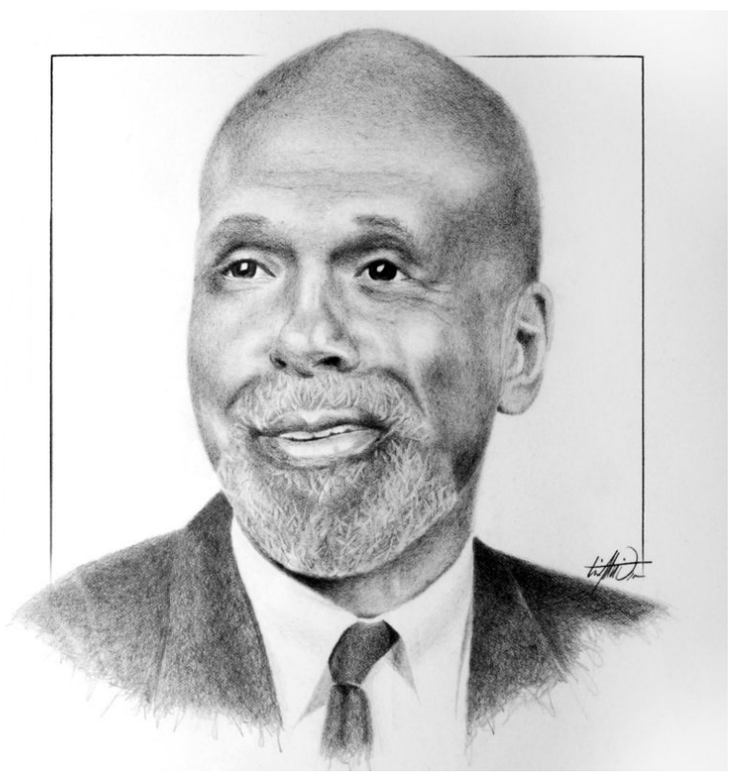


Photo courtesy of NSUTraditions.com.

The Long Purple Line is the highest honor of distinction for alumni in the University, but some students don't realize its importance and disapprove of the current location.

Sophomore Chloe Johnson thinks that moving the hall from the frequented student union and the color of the portraits can bring more students to appreciate the line. "The NFL Hall of Fame probably isn't just some random hall in a highly frequented building. If you want to bring more attention to an alumni hall, you need to make it seem legit," Johnson says.

Of the 131 current inductees, only seven are African American.

Spring N-Side View set for March 9

David West
Public Relations

NATCHITOCHES - Northwestern State University will hold its annual Spring N-Side View and Credit Connection on Saturday, March 9.

Registration for Spring N-Side View and Credit Connection will begin at 9 a.m. in Magale Recital Hall and the programs start at 10 a.m.

As part of Spring N-Side View, representatives from each of Northwestern State's colleges will be on hand to explain degree programs offered at NSU. Staff from the financial aid, housing and scholarship offices will also be available to answer questions. A student panel will give a unique perspective on the university. An orientation program for parents will also be held. A campus tour will also be part of Spring N-Side View.

During Credit Connection, students can earn college credit by taking an advanced standing examination which can result in credit being posted on the student's college transcript once they enroll at Northwestern State.

Tests for English 1010, English 1020, Spanish, Math 1020 or 1060 and fine arts will be offered. Students can take up to two tests at no charge. A reservation and valid, current photo ID are required to test.

Students with ACT Math subscores below 19 or 460 on the SAT or English subscores below 18 on the ACT or 450 on the SAT can take Accuplacer, a college placement test that assists the university in evaluating students in writing and math for placement decisions. Passing the exams can result in students being able to register in college level courses instead of developmental courses. The cost for the exam is $15 for math or English or $25 for both.

To register, contact the NSU Testing Center at (318) 357-5246.

The first round of Credit Connection tests begins at 10 a.m. with the second round at 1 p.m.

Northwestern State offers a unique scholarship opportunity for students with strong leadership potential and provides them with a yearlong leadership program. The President's Leadership Program is designed to promote active involvement in the campus community and provide opportunities for students to build leadership skills together. A PLP Emerging Leaders Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A reservation is required in order to participate in the program. Those interested can sign up at nsula.edu/fye.

Lunch will be available at 1 p.m. for $8. Those participating in N-Side View Day can get tickets to the NSU-Central Arkansas basketball doubleheader which begins at 1 p.m. in Prather Coliseum.

To reserve a spot for Spring N-Side View, go to nsula.edu/recruiting/preview-days. For more information on Spring N-Side View/ Credit Connection, contact the Office of Admissions and Recruiting at (318) 357-4503 or (800) 327-1903.



Kayla Rockett is the president of Helping Hands here at NSU. *Photo by Trinity Velazquez.*

The hands behind Helping Hands

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Not even five minutes into meeting Kayla Rockett, president of Helping Hands, and our interview is interrupted. Kayla doesn't mind though. She just laughs and bats a hand as I apologize repeatedly from being slightly embarrassed.

She's been in Helping Hands, a service organization run through Student Support Services, since her freshman year. Originally, she just wanted to be on the executive board, and she became secretary. Becoming secretary gave her a look on how the executive board works, and she's loved it ever since.

When she was considering becoming president, she thought she would be good at it because she cares about the organization and knows almost everything about it. She knew it wouldn't be hard to get things done because of how much she cares.

Kayla is a history major and a "super senior" who works with Jamie Flanagan, the assistant director of Student Support Services, but Kayla and everyone else just know her as Mrs. Jamie. Mrs. Jamie was a big help to her and always had answers to whatever questions Kayla has had. Kayla prepared herself to take up the role, she researched what the position's responsibilities and has done her homework very well.

She loves that people can come to her with their questions and ask her for advice. As president, she is constantly trying to make Helping Hands better and help as many people as possible. She enjoys being able to voice her opinion and talk in front of people, good traits every great leader must have.

With every idea she brings to the table, she asks everyone how they feel about it first.

As for being president, her goal is to maintain participation throughout the whole semester. She wants everyone to stay involved with doing community service, and she wants to see the same faces from the beginning to end of a semester.

It's brought her out of her shell. She must stand at her podium and talk. People are expecting her to lead meetings and always give feedback. She's learned organization skills and how to be direct when people aren't giving their all. Kayla knows that she's on the frontline, but she executes her power well. She's fair and understanding.

Her favorite part of Helping Hands is that they participate in a Black History Month program. No one else on campus does one except them. It's stressful at times but very important to her that the program is put on to promote Helping Hands. When she graduates, she hopes that it will be better than ever.

She wants to be able to come back and see what has been accomplished since she's been a member of Helping Hands. She wants to be proud of the work she's been putting into Helping Hands, and she should be. Kayla is a hard worker with a goal in mind, and she will accomplish it. She wants Helping Hands to continue to grow.

Aside from service, Helping Hands puts on a fashion show and a talent show. Helping Hands also assists with other RSO's and helps whenever and wherever they can.

Helping Hands is not just limited to students in Trio. It's for everyone. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the President's Room and open to all students.

Ask Vic

Q

Hey Vic refunds have come and gone and I'm trying to figure out some money saving tips and how to make some extra cash

A

1. Try using DB as much as possible to save real cash.

2.Buy groceries for times when the caf and other dining areas are closed

3. Try applying for jobs on campus.

4. Save money by not partying

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Clementine Hunter: Going against the grain

Jasmine Frazier
Contributing Writer

All year long we get a chance to reflect on history and the things that shaped the country. For one month out of the year, Black culture is emphasized to its fullest, allowing so many African-Americans to be recognized for their work.

Clementine Hunter, a self-taught artist from Natchitoches Parish, painted images based off her memories of life on a pre-Civil War plantation. Hunter was born and spent much of her life on Melrose plantation in the mid-1880s; during which time many African-Americans did not know how to read or write.

This, however, did not deter people like Hunter from seeking to convey their messages.

According to the National Museum of Women in Art, Hunter didn't start painting until the 1940's. The Museum also said her first painting is of a baptism on Cane River Lake.



Natchitoches remembers Clementine Hunter during Black History month. *Submitted photo.*

She died in 1988 at 101 years old.

Hunter's paintings are unique in that she can you do not find many artists that can tell a story the way she did through a paintbrush. Much of her work are of baptisms, funerals, religious beliefs and working on a plantation. Each image gives a little insight into history.

Hunter's longtime friend, Thomas Whitehead, said: "One of her favorite things to do was pick cotton, now I thought that was a job most people would not want but Clementine said that was one of the most social parts of her day."

Hunter is remembered as a well-known solo artist and is the first African-American artist to have a solo exhibit in the New Orleans Museum of Art. The history of African-American lives during the share crop era will live on through her work.

She has an honorary degree from NSU.

Hunter's cabin is still present on Melrose, and is a local tourist attraction.

NSU Alum Larrie King to hold guest exhibition in March



Larry King is a graduate of Northwestern State University and currently works at Kent State. *Photo courtesy of www.kent.edu.*

Michael McClung
Contributing Writer

An exhibition by NSU alumnus Larrie King will be available to the public at the Hanchey Art Gallery in the CAPA annex building during the month of March.

King, who earned his BFA and MA in design at Northwestern State University, will be returning to NSU from Kent State University, where he works as an assistant professor.

The exhibit will reflect King's past and his hopes for the furture using collages made of random objects as well as hand painted birds that represent individuals close to him.

"Thematically, the show is about peeking behind the dark corners of our lives, and revealing the light and beauty within," King said.

Hanchey Art Gallery coordinator Leslie Gruesbeck wants students to look for the deeper meaning when visiting the gallery.

"I hope that our students in general will want to explore Larrie's work on deeper levels because initially they are attracted to the color and symbols used in Larrie's pieces," she said.

CAPA student Leah DeFord sees the exhibit as an opportunity for fellow students to feel encouraged about their future.

"He was once where we are and he's been able to make a career out of his passion in life," she said. "NSU helped him get there."

King's exhibit will be free to the public from March 1 through 30.

The exhibit will officially open to the public during a reception on Friday at 2 p.m.

BRAINIACS POETRY SOCIETY

The Tale of Jamal and Enrique

Faith Burke

Jamal was here first to work for no pay
Enrique came through his own say
Jamal fought for what was right
Enrique was running towards dry land to the right
Jamal was constantly harassed by Aiden and his friends
Enrique tried his best to be an American
Jamal is tired of going to funerals for his brothers
Enrique sends all his money back home to his mother
Jamal now works at a construction site
Enrique cleans and does any outside work insight
Both live different but alike lives
But no one seems to remember
They are both afraid of November

Eyes of Argus

SPEECH IMPEDIMENT

Shundrika Smith

They do not listen as I speak
loudly, pleading, desperately
trying to be a part of the
group
as they walk along proudly,
triumphantly shouting as I
walk
two steps behind,
pushed to the side
overlooked.

They do not see me as I
speak
normally, cool, unaffected
by their inattention to me
as they joke and jive blindly,
disregarding of the outside
world
which strangles me slowly.

They do not speak as I speak
softly, unassuming, forgotten
deep within the jagged shards
of my mind,
I whisper my speech
alone, bleeding, broken,
dying.

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.



PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Wednesday, February 27
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG)
6:50 9:30 4:20

Alita: Battle Angel (PG-13)
4:10 6:45 9:20

IHappy Death Day 2U (PG-13)
4:30 7:10 9:30

Isn't It Romantic (PG-13)
4:30 7:10 9:30

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part (PG)
4:20 7:00 9:20

What Men Want (R)
4:10 6:50 9:20

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!!

(318) 352-5109
Box Office Opens 30 Mins Before First Show
1011 Keyser Ave.
www.acadianacinemas.com

Have an opinion to share?
Put a fork in our inbox.

Submit your piece to **thecurrentsauce@gmail.com** for editorial consideration.

NSYou

Do you feel represented on campus?



"I feel very represented as a black student as NSU. I believe thta NSU is the most diverse university with positive race relations in the state of Louisiana."
Christall Bates
Classification: Sophomore



"Yes! I feel that I have equal opportunities here!"
Caleb Ross
Classification: Freshman



"As an active member of various organizations on campus, I definitely feel as if I am represented. With a campus as diverse as ours, I hope every student feels like their voice is heard."
Peyton Mixon
Classification: Sophomore



"Yes because of the fraternity and organizations that I am involved in are so diverse. Not to mention that the university as a whole makes sure all of the students are included and that their needs are met. I am honored to be apart of such a great university! Fork 'em demons!"
Tracy Wildridge
Classification: Junior

Hey. Don't touch my hair.

Mekayla Jenkins
Photographer



Mekayla Jenkins fixes her hair while she sits on a car. *Photo courtesy of Hannah Durgin.*

Important PSA: There are multiple, different types of black-girl hair. Just because we wear sew ins, braids and wigs does not mean we do not have hair or that we don't embrace our own natural hair.

Another important announcement: My hair is not a petting zoo. I get it, it's art, but please do not touch it without my permission. You wouldn't touch the Mona Lisa, right?

Just like Gretchen Wieners, my hair is full of secrets.

Now that I have your attention, I'll share a few with you. My routine with my hair depends on the style I have. I wear sew ins, braids and of course my own natural hair.

I've rocked my "braids" since August. The style I have in my hair is called a mini-twist which is done by a woman back home who has been braiding my hair since fifth grade. I find this hairstyle to be one of my favorites because it's inexpensive and convenient for me.

In my hair, which may be different from most girl's hair, my twist lasts about one to two months with refreshing in between. To refresh my hair, I go home and get the twist that may be untwisting redone. The untwisting occurs because my real hair is growing out.

I start my nightly routine by loosening my hair from the ponytail or bun I style it in and shaking it out. Then I grab the secret weapon, the beholder of the magic: my handy-dandy spray bottle from Dollar Tree. Yes, Dollar Tree.

The magic is a simple combination of water with conditioner. I shake the bottle to mix it together, and then I spray it all over my twist and into my scalp. I'm very careful when I spray into my scalp. I never drown it. I massage it all in to make sure it's moisturized. Again, this is just what works for my hair.

An important tip to know is that twists and braids do pull your hair. Be careful of how you style, and never pull your hair too tight when pulling it up.

After, I let my hair hang for 20 to 30 minutes. I push all my hair back behind my ears and do my edges. Edges are literally what makes or breaks the look. Don't let people braid or twist your edges if you're blessed with any.

I lay my edges with edge-control gel and a toothbrush. It's okay, you can read that again, I said a toothbrush. You could also use your annoying roommate's toothbrush.

After laying my edges I grab my satin scarf, tie my hair down flat and place my bonnet over that. Now I'm all ready for bed.

My morning routine with my mini twist begins with waking up and doing what I must do to make sure the bonnet or scarf hasn't fully come off while I was sleeping.

Next, I remove my bonnet and style my hair however I want. I redo my edges if I must, and then I tie a bandana around my edges until they dry or until it's time to go. Simple, fast and easy.

I'm proud to be a young black woman. I am even prouder to be a young black woman in the media. I am thankful to those before me that have paved the way, so I could be able to write this article and give representation to girls that look just like me, old and young.

I'm proud of my hair. My hair isn't just hair. It's my culture and my history. It is the story of me.

Broken homes and black families

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor



Trinity Velazquez and her siblings at a young age pose for a silly photo. *Submitted Photo.*

There are a lot of stereotypes when it comes to black families. The main assumption is that almost all black children come from a broken home. While that may seem true, it is not the complete truth.

According to a U.S. Census, 45 percent of African-American couples were married compared to 80 percent of white and 70 percent Hispanics. The same census reported that 80 percent of African-American households contained two parents.

This wasn't my life.

My parents divorced when I was very young, and they were granted joint custody during my sophomore year of high school back in 2015. My brothers and I didn't know it, but we are very blessed to have both parents want to be present in our lives.

Some children like us don't have the lives that we have. Just because our parents were willing to compromise for a while doesn't mean that we always saw them. My brothers and I lived with our mom up until the fifth grade, and we saw my dad on the weekends. When my parents decided that it would be best if we lived with our dad, we only saw her on the weekends and Monday nights.

It took a toll on us. We never knew if they would stick to the schedule, and after they married other people, our lives just kept spinning.

The National Healthy Marriage Resource Center says that divorce rates are lower for middle-class couples with only 12 percent divorcing in 2016. People still form relationships and have children but are more likely to do so without marriage.

I think this is because divorce is now so common that young adults will settle for cohabitation instead of creating a bond that is supposed to last a lifetime. Cohabiting sounds so much easier because if two people break up, that's it. Cohabitations are less stable, but the process of separation isn't as strenuous on children as divorce is.

But what does this mean for African-American children of divorce? How do they feel about marriage?

At the University of Texas, there was a study done by family sociologist Norval Glenn, who claimed there is a decline in an ideal marriage for children. Marriage is supposed to maintain a link between parents and children, but those who grew up with divorced parents don't want their children to feel the way they felt.

This doesn't mean that young adults will never consider getting married. I'm proof of that, and so are my brothers. We understand that marriage is more than a relationship between two adults. It's critical for a child's wellbeing. We know first-hand how helpless children can feel, and we know that children need support just as much as the parents do.

When young African-American adults do reach the age of what they want to do with their future because of their past, we must support them. Encouraging children who come from broken homes to value themselves and remind them that they are worthy of love is one of the many ways we can break that stereotype.

Media organizations should use their power to promote positive images of divorced families, especially in "Black America." These are just numbers, and numbers are finite. Love is infinite, and black families have a love that is unconditional.

To anyone reading this who wants some advice from a caramel-skinned girl from a broken home in New Orleans, love your spouse and children. Encourage someone else who are divorced to love their ex-spouse and children even more.

GAME SCHEDULE

Tennis
3/1/19 1:00 p.m.
@Jack Fisher Lady Demon Complex
vs. Texas A&M

3/3/19 11:00 a.m.
@Jack Fisher Lady Demon Complex
vs. Lamar

Softball
3/1/19 10:00 a.m.
@Fayetteville, AR
vs. Boston

3/2/19 12:15 p.m.
@Fayetteville, AR
vs. Omaha

3/3/19 9:00 a.m.
@ Fayetteville, AR
vs. Nevada

3/5/19 3:30 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. LSU

Baseball
3/1/19 6:30 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Little Rock

3/2/19 2:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs.Little Rock

3/3/19 1:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. LittleRock

3/5/19 6:00 p.m.
@Ruston, LA
vs. LA Tech

(M) Basketball
2/27/19 6:30 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. Incarnate Word

3/2/19 4:00 p.m.
@Hammond, LA
vs. Southeastern LA

3/6/19 7:00 p.m.
@Thibodaux
vs. Nicholls

(W) Basketball
2/27/19 6:30 p.m.
@San Antonio, TX
vs. Incarnate word

3/2/19 1:00 p.m.
@Hammond, LA
vs. Southeastern LA

3/6/19 6:30 p.m.
@Prather Coliseum
vs. Nicholls

Athlete of the Week: Victoria Miller

Leron Massey
Reporter

Victoria Miller is a 6-foot junior, athletically, who is snagging four rebounds a game, the second-highest on the team. She additionally is thumping down 46 percent of her shots.

In the previous two games she has snatched an aggregate of 18 rebounds, including a season-high 11 against Lamar on Feb. 13. Other season highs incorporate 14 points and seven made field goals against the University of New Orleans.

Last summer Miller stayed in Natchitoches to work on the court, and she showed signs of improvement. During the last week of summer break, she blew her ankle out during an exercise, tearing almost every muscle in the process.

She was given two choices. She either had to have a quick medical procedure or simply give her ankle a chance to recuperate without going under the knife. Eventually, she ruled against having medical procedure and enabled her ankle to mend individually.

"Surgery was going to take a long while, and I didn't want to miss the season," Miller said.

Luckily, Miller was cleared to participate in on-court activities again right before the Lady Demons' first preseason game.

Miller is from Carrollton, Texas, a town near Dallas. In high school she helped the Lady Hawks get to their first playoff game in eight years. Victoria was also a part of the National Honor Society and Student Council and graduated with a 4.6026 GPA.

Victoria graduated in December 2018 with the most noteworthy GPA in the NSU School of Business after only two and half years as a full-time student. She is currently pursuing her master's degree and works in the NSU Athletics office as a student worker.



Victoria Miller, #13, focusing on her defense. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Perry voted Hitter of the Week

Matt Vines
Assistant Director of Communications

NATCHITOCHES -- Northwestern State freshman Alexis Perry has been selected Southland Conference Hitter of the Week as voted on by the league's sports information directors.

The catcher went 8-of-16 at the plate with eight RBIs in six games for the Lady Demons (8-6), all wins.

The Wylie, Texas, native hit two home runs and slugged .875 in her banner week.

Perry's three-run home run were the first runs as NSU raced past Fairleigh Dickinson 6-0 on Wednesday. She also struck for the game's first runs in an 8-0 win against Houston Baptist.

In another win against HBU, Perry's two-RBI single was part of a five-run inning that helped NSU widen a one-run lead.

Perry's 3-for-3 day against HBU on Saturday was a career high.

She is tied for the team lead in home runs (two) and second with 13 hits and 10 RBIs.

NSU heads to the Arkansas Wooo Pig Classic to play five games this weekend in Fayetteville, Ark., including one against No. 14 Arkansas (Saturday, 4:45 p.m.).



Alexis Perry, #42, is a hit with success this week. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

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Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic! We are at the halfway point of the semester and I'm trying to stay motivated. Help!

A Okay guys. After an eventful Mardi Gras break, it's time to lock in. Here's some tips I use to help me stay focused.

1. Choose the environment you study in wisely! It's easy to get distracted when you are studying at home in front of the TV. The Watson Library offers plenty of private study rooms on the second floor.

2. Speak with your professors often to ensure that you are on top of course material early. There's nothing worse than trying to play catch up the week of midterms, or worse, finals.

3. Study hard, but give your brain time to rest. All work and no play will only stress you out more.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

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SGA President Jacob Ellis to run for second term

Lauren Briscoe
Contributing Writer



"Anyone who knows Jacob knows he lives and breathes SGA," said Caleb Rhodes, SGA Senator-at-Large and Ellis' fellow PIKE brother. *Photo by Savannah Stevens.*

Sitting Student Government Association President Jacob Ellis is planning on running for a second term this spring. The elections will be held later in the semester and have not been set yet.

"I love this job," Ellis said. "I love being able to wake up every morning and represent the students of Northwestern State."

Looking back at his first term, Ellis said he is proudest of improving SGA's functions to "operate like it should be," noting that "it has taken a lot of people within SGA to help make this happen."

Last spring, Ellis said he and his running mate Cherish Wilson ran with the desire to target the student experience and make sure every student was receiving all they could from their college experience.

"Anyone who knows Jacob knows he lives and breathes SGA," said Caleb Rhodes, SGA Senator-at-Large and Ellis' fellow PIKE brother. "I have no doubt he can continue running the student government with ease, and as a senator, I wouldn't feel as confident about the new year with anyone else in that position."

Student Government is a vital way for students to have their voices heard. The individual who takes the role of SGA President must be prepared to work alongside the faculty of NSU in order to serve the student body efficiently.

"My first term was a learning experience, as it is for all SGA Presidents," Ellis said. "If reelected, I hope to keep up the momentum of what I've started, but at the same time learn from my past experiences in this office."

> **"I hope to keep up the momentum of what I've started."**

At this time, there are no known opponents against Jacob Ellis and Cherish Wilson, but as it gets closer to elections, that may change.

"Most presidents look at what they wanted to accomplish in their first term and try to accomplish it in their second term," said Tyler Wright, SGA Treasurer. "If Jacob can run with that and improve on a pretty successful first term, there is nothing but benefit to a second term."

Only time will tell the outcome of this upcoming election or if Ellis and Wilson will continue to lead SGA into next year.

NSU sees Veterans Affairs office shakeup

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

A memorandum of understanding occurred among Gov. John Bel Edwards' office, the Louisiana Board of Veterans and the Louisiana Board of Regents to place a Louisiana Vet Corp member on each campus in the state of Louisiana.

The Vet Corp is a peer-based program which establishes veterans' programs on college campuses in Louisiana. A member of Vet Corp will be hired and will serve up to 30 hours per week on special projects, outreach and direct contact to student veterans.

"The Louisiana Vet Corp member will be recruited from the local community and have knowledge of our university and geographical region," said Dr. Vickie Gentry, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The program will work closely with Northwestern State University's current Veteran Affairs, but it will serve a different purpose.



Louisiana State Flag. *Photo courtesy wikpedia.com.*

Vet Corp will be housed in the Veterans Affairs office of the Student Services Center.

Gentry believes by offering this program, NSU will increase awareness of academic programs and services offered to veterans and their families.

"The Louisiana Vet Corp member will likely create a Veteran's Interest Group and will engage in counseling veterans in admission, advising, registration, career services and professional development," Gentry said.

She said the member will also monitor enrollment, persistence and completion of a degree while assisting veterans as they transition from military service to civilian life.

President Chris Maggio called this new program "exciting" because it will give NSU an opportunity to work closely with their veteran students.

"We always hold our veterans to high esteem," Maggio said. "This gives us an area where we can really focus on our veterans and our veterans' services."

"I am very excited about this project, and I'm hopeful that it will improve support for our students who have served and continue to serve our country," said Frances Conine, Dean of Students.

The new office will open August of 2019. Gentry said it will include office space, computers, telephones and a private meeting area for the Louisiana Vet Corp member. It will be located in the Registrar's Office on the third floor of the Student Services Center.

NSU bridges a gap between students and Chick-fil-A

Leanna Coy
Reporter

A crosswalk is being added between the Northwestern State University Marketplace and Watson Memorial Library to make access to Chick-fil-A easier and safer for pedestrians.

The high number of cars on University Parkway makes the spot a difficult place for students to cross the road safely. After the recent addition of Chick-fil-A to the marketplace, more students are crossing University Parkway than before.

Drake Owens, assistant vice president for external affairs, said the crosswalk is being added for the safety of pedestrians getting to the NSU Marketplace. Although traffic on University Parkway will be slowed down while students are crossing, Owens said there are details being worked out to make sure the crosswalk does not get traffic too backed up.

Owens said students can expect to see the crosswalk "pretty soon." "Our goal is within the next two months," he said.

Despite any traffic concerns, students have said they think the crosswalk will be a positive improvement. Dany Racero, a student worker at Chick-fil-A, said he thinks the crosswalk is a good idea.

Quint Dejean, sophomore, said he agrees that the crosswalk is necessary. He said he has almost been hit by a car before while he was trying to cross the street to Chick-fil-A.

"A crosswalk would make it easier for me to get my coffee and Chick-fil-A in the morning," Dejean said.

Stay Current

@thecurrentsauce

Quote of the Week

"If you want to be a woman in power, empower women."

Nina Show

2 **Arts and Living, Sports:** Party Girl, Athlete of the Week

3 **Viewpoints:** Trust and Obey

4 **Back:** Demonfest 2019

"The Hidden World" is a fantastic conclusion to the Dragon's saga

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

DreamWorks has always been hit or miss with their sequels. While some of them build on what was previously established like Shrek 2 and Kung Fu Panda 2, others fair not as well especially when the third movie rolls around. However, with the How to Train Your Dragon trilogy, DreamWorks' best series of films concludes with a fun adventure for kids and deep storyline for adults.

While the first movie was a coming of age story and the second shifted to an epic fantasy, the third maintains the fantasy-like feel for the world of Berk. The tone is very mature but doesn't go too far in that direction that it feels out of place.

The writing is one of the strongest points of the series, and that is still present here. Every beat is on point from comedy, tension, and heartwarming moments. The hero, Hiccup goes through a well-developed character arc where he must make tough decisions as the chief now, and his story concludes perfectly in this movie.

All the actors return from the past movies, and their performances are top-notch, with outstanding performances by Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera, and F. Murray Abraham.

The animation in the movie is breathtaking at points with highly detailed textures and models used on the characters, environments, and dragons. One of the most jaw-dropping scenes being when the characters arrive to the "Hidden World."

If I were to rank the movies, I still think the second one is the best by a small margin, with Hidden World right behind it. I highly recommend the entire trilogy of the Dragon movies. They are family movies where audences of all ages can enjoy for the epic fantasy, great comedy, and mature storyline.

levels because initially they are attracted to the color and symbols used in Larrie's pieces," she said.

CAPA student Leah DeFord sees the exhibit as an opportunity for fellow students to feel encouraged about their future.

"He was once where we are and he's been able to make a career out of his passion in life," she said. "NSU helped him get there."

King's exhibit will be free to the public from March 1 through 30.

The exhibit will officially open to the public during a reception on Friday at 2 p.m.

PARKWAY CINEMA
Movie Times

Friday, March 15 - Thursday, March 21
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Wonder Park (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:30 7:10 9:20

Five Feet Apart (PG13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 6:50 9:20

Captain Marvel (PG13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:20 4:00 6:45 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 6:45 9:20

A Madea Family Funeral (PG 13) (On 2 Screens!)
Friday- Sunday: 1:30 2:30 4:15 5:15 6:50 8:00 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:15 5:15 6:50 8:00 9:30

How To Train Your Dragon: Hidden World (PG)
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Carnival New Orleans. *Wikimedia.org.*

Party Girl goes to Mardi Gras

Party Girl

Mardi Gras break: 2 ½ days to head down to New Orleans and embrace the craziness. People travel from all over the world to experience a weeklong party from sun up to sun down. In New Orleans, the city where no one sleeps, beads take flight and trash fills the streets. Walking through Bourbon Street is something you can ever un-see, from women flashing their boobs for beads to people who have been drinking since the moment they opened their eyes.

Let's not forget about all the guys that forget about women's personal space When did it become okay to grope random women that you don't know? You haven't experienced Bourbon if you haven't watched drunken people's reaction when their cards decline because they have bought everyone in the bar drinks. In NOLA, the more drunk you are, the more you become friends with everyone.

You'll meet your best friends watching the sunrise and eating pizza until it makes your stomach hurt. Leaving New Orleans makes you recognize a strength you didn't realize you had. So thank your liver for not failing after all of the abuse you put it through, and don't ever say you can't pull an all nighter to study, because we all saw you taking shots at the bar until 6 a.m.

I hope you all survived Mardi Gras, and have successfully detoxed your bodies. Welcome back to reality; we are half way through this semester.

Only the strong survive
XOXO,
Party Girl

Athlete of the Week: Sami Thomas

Leron Massey
Reporter

"No athlete is truly tested until they've stared an injury in the face and came out on the other side stronger than ever."

On Feb. 18th, 2017, in a game against Abilene Christian, senior guard Sami Thomas endured a season-ending knee damage after posting career high performances in both scoring and assists. Before her injury, she had 10 points and six assists.

"After surgery, I basically had to teach myself how to walk, run, and run again," said Thomas.

Sami Thomas believes that coming to NSU improved her as a competitor.

"Well, coming here has changed my game on all levels, especially defensively," said Sami. "You need to work twice as hard just to be as good, if not better, than the competition."

Sami Thomas leads the lady Demons in assists with 89, ninth best in the conference. Also, she is fourth on the team in rebounds, with a total of 69. Her assist to turnover ratio is 2.4, seventh best in the conference, and she has a 75 percent free-point completion rate. In her final game as a lady Demon, she had 13 points and seven assists, helping her team overcome a 14-point first-half deficit last Saturday against Central Arkansas.



Sami Thomas, #5, . *Chris Reich.*

She has effectively earned her bachelor's degree, and is close to completing her masters. She aspires to become a coach on the collegiate level.

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NSU alumni Zach Doucet throws fork 'em horns with metal band Slayer. *Submitted Photo.*

Metal is the voice of a rebellion

John Lee Hurt
NSU Student

Everyone has a music genre they click with, and for me, it's always been metal and rock. Over time, electric guitar rifts, drum solos and plucky bass guitars have become my safe haven.

With a new album coming out in 2019, Slipknot has filled my playlists in anticipation. Slipknot started as a group from Iowa, wearing jumpsuits and custom made Halloween masks, screaming and head banging about a plethora of subjects, from childhood abuse to rebellion and drug usage. Their fans call themselves "maggots", and I'm proud to be one.

As a teen, Slipknot became my refuge because I felt isolated. Much like the masks they wear on stage, I was constantly wearing a mask, and no one at the time knew. In their music, I felt a kinship to them, because their hideous masks represented how I felt. In my darkest days, Slipknot became my lighthouse.

Metal has been an outlet for many disenfranchised individuals over the years. In the spirit of true rebellion, Dee Snider wrote one of the most prolific rock rebellion songs. Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It" was a smash hit, helping to propel metal to the forefront of rock culture.

Before Dee, Ozzy Osborne was the king of the emerging genre. Ozzy is now known for his mumbling speech and show on History Channel, but in his day he was the embodiment of Metal. His all black attire was "frightening", and became the staple of this rebellion. You can't talk about the 60's and 70's social rebellion and not mention Woodstock. At Woodstock, the band self-dubbed Mountain performed "Mississippi Queen", exposing thousands to emerging metal.

It became that sound, the voice of a rebellion. It became the hope. So next time you're feeling down and out and want to cut your life into pieces because it's your last resort, or you feel like you've been left behind, just play your ace of spades card, don't stop believing and walk through the fire and flames. You're not alone, there are millions just like you. In the words of AC/DC, we roll tonight to the guitar bite and for those about to rock, I salute you.



Keator Poleman smiles for a photo in the middle of Times Square. *Submitted Photo.*

Everyone should take a trip to New York City

Keator Poleman
Associate Editor

New York City, a majestic metropolis with towering skyscrapers, has caught the heart of yet another wayward traveler.

I was lucky enough to take part in a three-day conference with other members of student media last week, and they were some of the most memorable days of my life.

The city is filled with all sorts of people, smells and sounds. People from all over the world are amassed in this tiny melting pot of an island.

Watching the movements of the people and vehicles is like watching a dance. Every movement feels choreographed.

One moment you'll see a street vendor selling presumably counterfeit merchandise, and next you'll overhear friends discussing business transactions.

While the Big Apple gets a bad rap for being home to rude and obnoxious people, I found it to be far from the truth.

It's easy for us to mistake the hustle and bustle for being rude; Southerners are more apt to take several minutes to chat with each other.

We're not more or less rude because we value time differently.

Another difference is the many sounds you'll hear in the city.

New York is such a musical place, and every time you go out there is a symphony of new sounds. You'll hear the rhythm of the city wherever you go.

Likewise, the city's smells range from the sourness of subway cars to the delightful aromas of its many wonderful restaurants.

I think everyone should make at least one trip to that majestic city. It is an experience unlike any other.

Since coming back to Natchitoches, the whole experience has felt like a dream.

I would gladly return to the city as soon as possible; I am so grateful to have taken part in the trip.



Freshman Juan David reads the paper outside of the Natatorium. *Staged photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

We need to do something about the Natatorium

Lauren Briscoe
Contributing Writer

Northwestern State University has no shortage of old, outdated buildings. Some have been modified and restored; others have been left to be overtaken by vegetation.

At the center of activity on campus lies the Friedman Student Union, and directly to the side of it is one of these said buildings—the Nesom Natatorium. Built in 1938, the natatorium was a part of a Works Progress Administration project that expanded the campus. Later on, it was named after Guy W. Nesom, who was once head of the Department of Health and Physical Education and also dean of the College of Education.

For 74 years, the natatorium held many different roles, such a space for beginner and intermediate swimming classes to take place as well as an after-school swim program for children. Since its closing in 2012, the natatorium has yet to open its doors. Northwestern has said that the closing of the natatorium is due to the "need of extensive repairs to address Americans with Disabilities Act requirements as well as mechanical and structural issues." Yet, eight years later, and the natatorium is still abandoned, a shell of the building it once was.

Maybe NSU does not need an indoor pool complex on campus anymore, as swim classes have been moved to the Robert Wilson Recreation Complex. There are countless other things that the space can be utilized for. Another on-campus eatery, a lounge for students, or another study space... the possibilities are endless. For such a prime spot in the busiest part of campus, the Natatorium should not have to go another day vacant.

Trust and Obey: a BCM blog post

Aaron Murray
Informational Cluster Leader

When I started the semester, I told myself that something had to change, something had to give. I had been so focused on other things that I would not take the time to sit and enjoy the presence of Jesus. I dreaded the thought of taking myself there mentally and I refused to do it. It was evident that I had been neglecting my spiritual walk, and it was affecting me to the point of me not wanting to leave my room. So, I'm sure you understand the problem here. Coming back to school, as I said, I told myself that my priorities and where I spend my time had to change, and thankfully they did.

Lately, I've been reading the book of John (if you've never read John's account of Jesus' life, I highly recommend it). There are so many things I could say about different passages of the book that I've read so far, but I won't make this too long.

So far, the overarching message that is given from the book is finding belief among the disbelief. I cannot even begin to describe to you the amounts of disbelief among the people in Jesus' time. I was shocked, but not at all surprised, if that makes sense. Let me break it down a little bit. I was shocked at the fact that these people could watch Jesus turn water into wine, give blindsight, teach the teachers and still question whether or not he was sent from Heaven. However, I was not surprised that, as humans, they did not believe that someone who looked just like them and had some of the same attributes as they did, was capable of doing such things and they couldn't. If I'm being honest, I would even say they were jealous, especially the Pharisees. For example, in John 9, Jesus gives a man, who has been blind since birth, the ability to see. This outraged the Jewish leaders. They were upset because Jesus had performed this miracle on the Sabbath.



Aaron Murray smiles for a photo in front of Cane River Lake. *Photo courtesy of nsulabcm.com.*

If we are all honest with ourselves, sometimes we are that unbelief, we all doubt, we are those Pharisees who question the authority and ability of Jesus, and I hate that for us. I want to be on the other side of the disbelief. I want to resemble the people who received the wine, the man who could finally see, the teachers he taught. I want to see the work of God and be amazed at the sight of it. But for us to see that work happen in and through our lives, we must trust and obey. In John 9 when Jesus is giving the blind man sight, He tells him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. This is what happened immediately following Jesus' command: "he left, washed, and came back seeing". He acted immediately, with trust and obedience. There were no questions asked. When I read this passage and started thinking about that significance of it, I realized a couple of things: Jesus' commands are not for us to consider, they are meant for immediate action and I am not the one who does the actual work, so why do I put all of the pressure on myself. I believe that if we go with this mindset and do the things the Lord commands, we cannot fail. The bible says in Deuteronomy 31:8 that "The Lord is the one who will go before you. He will be with you; he will leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

Like I mentioned in the beginning, not too long ago I was in a place spiritually where I had no self-control, no motivation to spend time with Jesus, and I was most safe in my room all by myself where no one else could see my failures. I was that Pharisee who had trouble believing all the things I had heard about Jesus. Since then, while reading and meditating on all of this has been crucial. This season is one of the pivotal moments in my spiritual growth. This is me taking a step back and actually learning all of the things I have heard in Sunday School my entire life. Going back to a place of childlike faith. I pray that that for you, whoever and wherever you are, that you will just take a minute and find that belief that will break down the walls keeping you hidden. So, go where he leads, know that he will be the one paving the path for you, know that he will be the one who provides the heart change. All he wants is for us to trust and obey.



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Freshman starts new chapter of Young Americans for Liberty

Brianna Corley
Contributing Writer



Tristian Myers, a UL student involved with Young Americans for Liberty, held an event last week to help recruit more members. *Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.*

NSU is set to receive yet another student organization in the form of libertarian activist group Young Americans for Liberty.

"Young Americans for Liberty is a political activities group and I believe it's going to give us a broader and free aspect of politics," said Thomas Young, freshman and president of the newly instituted Young Americans for Liberty.

YAL has been boasted as one of the most active libertarian organizations for youth on college campuses throughout the country. It is known for a simple yet effective mission: identify, educate, train and mobilize youth activists.

"I've been a part of the group since high school, and they really are dedicated to the students involved. The organization has sent me money to recruit free of charge, and they are truly a student led organization," Young explained.

A non-profit which fosters freedom of speech most strongly above all, YAL is a group Young sees as imperative in today's political climate.

"It's very important," Young said. "One of the main political issues YAL pushes is freedom of speech, and I feel like that's one of the things that is endangered on campuses today."

It is foremost on Young's agenda to sculpt an environment that allow students to connect with others who possess varying opinions in order to create discussions and viewpoints that would not have been reached otherwise.

"It's here to make sure our rights aren't impeded by any policies or laws given," Young said when asked what YAL offers to those who may interested in joining. "The club gives students an outlet to be political, not about having the same views but having the same passion for freedom of speech. We're just trying to give students a chance to defend their rights."

SGA to host V. L. Roy Service Day event on campus Saturday

Leanna Coy
Reporter

NSU's Student Government Association is sponsoring V. L. Roy Service Day on March 23 as a way for students to give back to the community.

Virginia Falgoust, senior accounting and business administration major, is the V. L. Roy Service Day chair. Falgoust said the event is in honor of V. L. Roy, NSU's president at the time the Student Government Association was founded on campus.

This year, Falgoust said the Student Government Association is partnering with the Greek community as well as NSU students to host the event.

"We want to show our thanks and appreciation for what this community provides for our students and the blessings we have," Falgoust said.

Jacob Ellis, student body president, said there will be multiple clean-up projects taking place both on and off campus. Ellis said students can get involved with the service day by signing up with a link that will be emailed out.

"We are very excited about this event and hope that students will come out and help beautify our campus and our city," Ellis said.

Leann Wills, sophomore business administration major, is on the service day committee. Wills said most of the projects on campus will include gardening or cleaning. There will also be a tri-fold beautification project at the alumni center. Wills said potential off-campus projects include volunteering at Hope for Paws, the American Cemetery and Keep Natchitoches Beautiful.

The V. L. Roy Service Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning with registration and breakfast at Organizational Row.

Why are potholes so prevalent on campus?

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

Potholes on NSU's campus continue to be a problem for drivers as funding issues have prevented them from being fixed promptly.

Dale Wohletz, physical plant director, mentioned that roads like Tarlton Drive were in great condition over two decades ago, and the potholes were less of an issue.

"Now we are having serious base failure on a lot of Tarlton Drive," Wohlez said. "We repaired some of the worse areas last fall, but more are showing up after the extremely wet winter we are having."

The potholes are becoming worse as the roads grow older. A lot of the roads weren't built on a good base, meaning that no soil cement was used, and very little rock was used in the road base itself.

The price of the rebuilding and improvements is a large challenge facing the roads being repaired permanently.

"The road repair comes from student parking fees," Wohlez said. "The amount was around $184,000 this year." To put that in perspective, Wohlez stated that Sam Sibley Drive, from University Parkway to the Student Union four-way stop, was around $415,000 to repair two years ago.

Students on campus recognize this issue with the roads, and there have been incidents reported from these.

"The pothole basically knocked the air out of my tire," Tre Jackson, a junior Hospitality Management and Tourism major, said. "It was on Tarlton Drive. It was dark, so I didn't see it. The roads most definitely could use some more TLC [tender-loving care] than what it does receive."

And Jackson wasn't the only victim.

"Before I had a car and was mostly a pedestrian, I tripped in a pothole walking across the street from A. A. Fredricks to the FACS building. I twisted my ankle pretty badly," Peyton Fitzhugh, a Sophomore Early Childhood Education major, said.

Fitzhugh also thinks that the administration doesn't seem to prioritize the roads on campus like they should.

"They'll put money into building a brand-new parking lot in front of the library, a brand-new bookstore and Chick-Fil-A but not repairing roads," Fitzhugh said.

Wohlez noted that the potholes and roads on campus are just as much a priority as any other improvement on campus.

"It's the first impression visitors get when they come on campus," Wohlez said. "We would like to rebuild all the streets if we had the funding available. It's an ongoing problem that will need to be addressed continuously, and we will upgrade streets across campus as funds become available.

Repairing the roads are also not as easy as it could be because of the wet weather Natchitoches has been having lately.

The roads are repaired with an asphalt cold patch material that only works on dry surfaces. Wohlez mentioned that the City of Natchitoches Public has been bringing their pothole machine on campus to fix roads during break. Their use of hot asphalt and gravel holds up better.

"The main problem this winter has been all the rain," Wohlez said, "We cannot patch, fill, repair potholes when water is in the holes. The material won't stick and the hole will come right back."

Wohlez said the university tries to fix these potholes in a timely manner, but that limited manpower slows down the process.

Patricia Reed appointed president of NSU's Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief



Patricia Reed with Chase Slater at the BCM's banquet on March 14. *Submitted photo.*

Junior Patricia Reed has been appointed president of NSU's Baptist Collegiate Ministry, succeeding graduating senior Chase Slater. The transition was made official at a banquet the BCM held for its leaders last Thursday, March 14.

"If I am honest, I was shocked," Reed said of being appointed by Slater to take on the role. "I didn't expect it to be me. Then I remembered that if God calls you to something, he will also equip you for it."

Reed said her goal as president is to help others "get to know God's love and get to experience how intentional he is."

Slater called the passing of the torch "bittersweet" after having poured his four years at NSU into the ministry.

"I've spent my time since day one of becoming president praying about the new positions I'd have to appoint," Slater said. "Patricia's capable, in the fullest meaning of the word. She's got the ability to be firm and compassionate all at the same time."

The BCM does not hold elections, allowing the sitting president to appoint new leaders at the end of every term. BCM directors employed by the Louisiana Baptist Convention consult the sitting president, but the decision was ultimately up to Slater.

"She doesn't know a stranger," BCM Director Bill Collins said of Reed. "She has this quiet confidence that is just amazing. She has really just endeared herself to everyone here. I look forward to working with her and seeing her grow as a leader and see where we head as the BCM."

Reed said Matthew 4:19 (NLT) guides her in her leadership: "Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!'"

Stay Current

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Quote of the Week

"Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

Albert Einstein

2 **Arts and Living:** 'Flavor of Louisiana' makes return

3 **Viewpoints:** Two years in, how is President Trump doing?

4 **Sports:** E.C. Delafield named Southland Conference Hitter of the Week

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic, how do you deal with this weather change? It's literally too hot for sweaters and too windy and too much pollen for summer clothes. Help!

A 1. Be sure to check the weather app before you head to class each day to prepare appropriate dress attire for the day. Dressing in layers helps—it's easy to take a light jacket off!
2. Allergy medicine is your best friend this time of year. Buy some from the C-Store to be prepared!
3. Slowly bring out your spring wardrobe. It's starting to heat up.
4. Make sure your home is a neutral temperature; switching from hot to cold quickly makes us sick.
5. Nasal spray and eye drops are also great tools for those sniffly days.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

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Above, Alphonse Engram, Taylor Young an Jayzen Boger performed as the Cat, Sally and Boy in the choreography-driven production. *Photos by Christian Boudreaux.*

CAPA's "The Cat in the Hat" is about as unique as it gets

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

NSU's production of "The Cat in the Hat" wasn't what I expected, but due to great direction, expressive actors and well-done choreography, it made me have a smile on my face from beginning to end.

The show itself is based off of the Dr. Seuss book of the same name but opts to have no dialogue and tells the story through movement and dance.

In less than 40 minutes, the actors were able to use their expressive emotions and gestures, and that made it easy to follow. Not to mention, the choreography of jazz, ballet and tap dancing worked well with the roles.

Behind the scenes, the technical crew were able to compliment the dancing with a smart and colorful choice of lighting that made the performers pop.

The set design was limiting to not damage the marley used, but what surprised me were how the crew were able to switch aspects around with unnoticeable stage transitions.

Costume design for the show was creative, especially with the rain and fish's costume which even from a distance you can tell had a lot of details worked into it.

Even when the "Things" came on stage, I loved how they looked especially when usually Seuss' characters look off when they are adapted to live-action.

One of my favorite parts was that the machine that the cat used to clean up the house was cleverly powered by tap dancers. As a tap dancer myself, I realized it and found that part genius.

I'm glad I got to see the show and encourage others to check out the dance productions that NSU theater produces. A lot of work goes into it, but somehow NSU performers always seem to make it look easy.

Eyes of Argus

Harmony

Zachary Mclendon
NSU Student

The storm's
percussive
splattering
beats on the tin roof,
as its thunderous
bass
keeps up with the
lightning tempo.
Their gusty
companion
strums the fence
gate
just right,
ringing out creaky
notes
over the brassy cry
of a distant train.
And while this mad
orchestra conducts
its
brilliant symphony,
mute are the
dissonant troubles
of today,
and the
offbeat worries
of tomorrow.

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.



Photo courtesy of demonblog.nsula.edu.

'Flavor of Louisiana' dining event returns to NSU Friday

Michael McClung
Contributing Writer

The third annual "Flavor of Louisiana" extravaganza is returning to NSU's Prather Coliseum at 6 p.m. on Friday.

The event, hosted by NSU and The Louisiana Seafood Board, showcases specialty seafood dishes from restaurants in Natchitoches and Shreveport such as Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant, Merci Beaucoup, and Savoie's The Catering Place.

Dishes served in the event include marinated crab fingers, seafood gumbo, shrimp creole, seafood lasagna, and more.

Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser will attend the event as well as NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and wife Jennifer Maggio.

"I enjoy having the opportunity to taste a variety of seafood dishes from so many amazing chefs in our town and state," Jennifer Maggio said.

Jill P. Bankston, Associate Director of Development at NSU, said that the event also includes involvement from students at the Hospitality Management & Tourism department.

"There are students from HMT who are volunteering to help serve our guests for this fundraiser, as well as other students from Blue Key, President's Leadership Program, and Purple Jackets," she said.

Taljare Tolbert, a sophomore Culinary student, sees the event as a great opportunity for the future.

"As a student, I hope to gain more experience in the culinary field as well as gaining more knowledge on Louisiana based food and meals," Tolbert said. "I would also love to network and meet great people who I hope to run into in the future of my own works."

The event will be business casual and will feature music provided by Leonard Sarpy.

Students are welcome to the event and tickets can be purchased at the gate or by calling 318-357-5699 by Wednesday evening.

Admission is $65 for one or $125 for two. The proceeds go to NSU faculty, scholarships, and campus programs.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Wednesday, March 20
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Five Feet Apart (PG-13)
4:00 6:50 9:20

Wonder Park (PG)
4:30 7:10 9:20

Captain Marvel (PG-13)
4:00 6:45 9:20

Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral (PG-13)
4:15 5:15 6:50
8:00 9:30

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG)
4:20 7:00 9:30

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Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!!

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for editorial consideration.



NSU Student Lara Schales (top) with her family. *Submitted photo.*

The greatest gift I never asked for

Lara Schales
NSU Student

I was born in Irkutsk, Russia and shortly after was put into an orphanage because my mom couldn't take care of me and my siblings anymore. I was adopted when I was just under 12 months of age. My parents said that we celebrated my first birthday while they were there.

They were there for about three weeks before they got to take me home. Before I was adopted my mom had been pregnant with two twin boys named Brendan and Grant. They were very sick when they were born and didn't end up surviving. I was adopted a few years later.

After I was adopted, I decided that I wanted a sibling but didn't know how to make it happen. I told my parents that and they said, "Let's make it happen." I told them that I specifically wanted a little sister and they said that they would try to make it happen but couldn't guarantee it. After a long process my parents ended up going to Guatemala to adopt a little girl from a foster care.

My sister's name is Ashlynne and she used to be really quiet, but now she never stops talking. Growing up with my sister people would always ask us how we knew each other because we were always together. People start asking a lot of questions like, "What's it like to be adopted?" "How old were you guys when you were adopted?" and "Do you speak any Russian?" I get these questions all the time still.

Growing up I would say it was hard to understand why I was adopted or where I was adopted from. I didn't know very much about our adoptions. Now that I know more, the experience is great.

Something that people always say to me when I tell them that I was adopted is that I don't look like I was adopted, or I don't sound Russian. With my sister, people always assume that she is something other than Hispanic. It's difficult to deal with that because people just assume that I am from the United States, but with my sister it's different.

For her, people are always sort of teasing her and asking her questions about her race. It depends on the people and the questions that they ask. We know that there is always going to be an opposition that we face, but we've had a normal and pleasant childhood.

People always ask me if I want to go back to Russia or if I ever want to adopt a child from anywhere when I get older. The answers to both of those questions are absolutely. I would like to go back to Russia one day and see what it's like. I would like to adopt a child from Russia, but the government shut down all adoptions from Russia.

I think adoption is the best thing anyone could ever do. Just giving that child a second chance at a better life is one of the greatest things that you could give.

Whether you adopt nationally or internationally it doesn't matter if you are happy. You know that eventually your child will be happy about it too. I think that everyone should adopt if they are given the chance. I am grateful that my parents cared enough to adopt me when they could have picked anywhere else in the world and any other child. They picked me and my sister, being adopted is the greatest gift that I never asked for. If it wasn't for my family, I wouldn't be here today.

Two years in, how is President Trump doing?

John Lee Hurt
NSU Student



President Donald Trump with Vice President Mike Pence. *Submitted Photo.*

A few years ago, I made a very public statement that I voted for our current president. In some ways it was bold. Other ways not so much. I mean, what's bold about a conservative voting Republican? Not much.

In 2016 I was sold a half-baked king cake. I bought a ticket to the Trump Train. Since then I haven't been as pleased as I thought I would be. He has done a lot of good, but he's also ran his mouth a lot. Overall, if I were to grade him, he'd be a B- and for reference I gave Obama a C and Bush before a D on the best of days.

Economically, we're doing better. The government is taking less from us in terms of taxes. Unemployment is at its lowest historically. Stock markets reached record highs each day for several months. I would call that winning. He pressured companies into staying here and investing in us, the people.

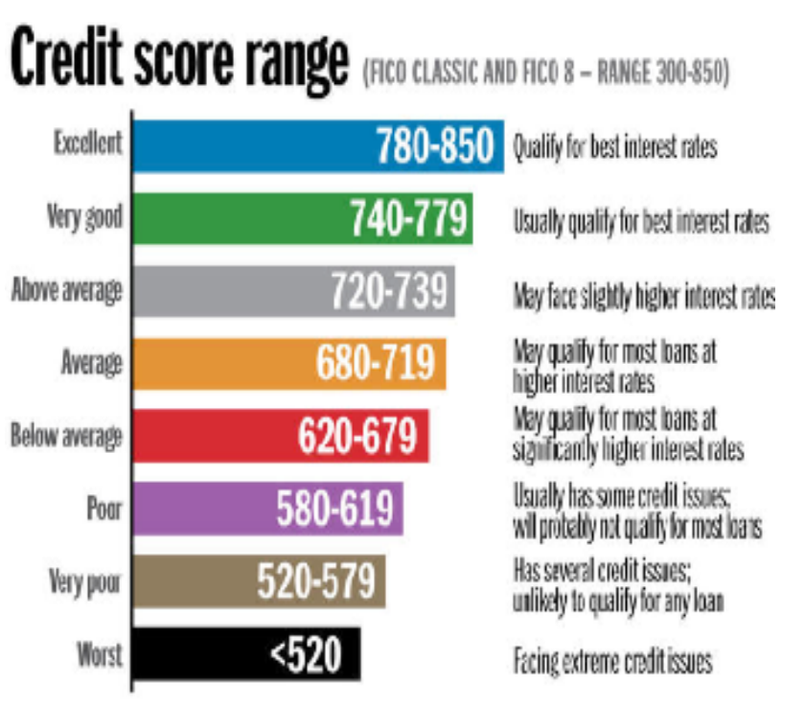
On the flip side, he has hurt us in some ways. We still have political swamps. The government shutdown was an example of that. Both sides were at fault. I'm a believer in tighter borders, but I'm a bigger believer in feeding our own citizens. We had thousands waiting in line for food. It looked like a socialist nation for a minute.

Another major positive is the brokering of peace on the Korean Peninsula. It's not settled yet, but it's getting there. It may seem like we're crawling our way to peace, but crawling is still moving forward. No other U.S. President has been able to do what he did over there. That's an accomplishment for the history books.

One final contrast is his ego. Yes, he's successful, but he doesn't seem to know when to hush. I feel like we can all agree on that, right? That has hurt his reputation in my eyes. He needs to learn to be still sometimes and let things work.

Would I vote for him again? Right now, it depends on who is running. Hopefully, we won't have to pick "the lesser of two evils" again.

No matter who you vote for, remember that ultimately this your country. Vote often and vote wisely.



Submitted graphic.

Mastering personal finances is easier than you might think

Thomas Celles
NSU Student

Most people are fairly familiar with the concept of personal finance. They know it has something to do with maintaining credit, budgeting, and saving and that being financially literate is generally a good thing. If given the opportunity, most students believe that they could benefit from a course in personal finance and "most students" are right.

A 2017 study done by the National Endowment of Financial Education and George Washington University shows some alarming results when it comes to our generation's financial literacy. Of the 5,525 millennials surveyed, 69 percent said they had a "high level" of finance know-how. But only 24 percent of those respondents showed even a basic knowledge of personal finance.

You may be surprised to hear that NSU actually does have a class on personal finance. FIN 2150 is a 3-credit course offered by the School of Business, but most students don't take it. In fact, most of the students I spoke with while writing this article said they hadn't even heard of the class and were unaware that it was an option. Taking the Personal Finance can be an excellent way to get an in-depth view on a variety of financial topics, but everyone may not have the time to fit it in their schedules.

A great deal of financial literacy comes from knowing about credit. Credit is basically the amount of trust a bank, finance company, or credit card has in your ability to pay them back for money you borrow. Your credit score is one of the most important numbers in your life, right up there with your Social Security number and your phone number. Credit scores range from 300 to 850. The higher your score, the better your credit is.

To simplify a fairly complicated system, if your score is anything below 650, you're definitely going to want to start looking up ways to bump up those numbers. Above 700 and you're golden. If you're ever curious about what your credit score is (and you should be), try going to creditkarma.com and making an account to find out.

In today's day and age, most of the hard pen-and-paper work has been taken out of personal finance. Websites like wisebread.com can teach you most of what you need and apps can do most of the work, so there's really no excuse to not be on top of your game. Everything from filing your taxes, learning to budget, investing, opening a credit card, or managing debt can be done with a few taps from a smartphone.

It's never been easier to become financially literate, and there are more advantages to it than there are commas on Warren Buffett's bank statements.

2019 DemonFest Lineup



GAME SCHEDULE

Tennis

3/21/19 1:30 p.m.
@Jack Fisher Lady Demon Complex
vs. Louisiana Tech

3/22/19 11:00 a.m.
@Jack Fisher Lady Demon Complex
vs. Lamar

3/23/19 3:00 p.m.
@Jack Fisher Lady Demon Complex
vs. Prairie View A&M

Softball

3/20/19 6:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Louisiana Tech

3/22/19 6:00 p.m.
@Lake Charles, LA
vs. Mcneese

3/23/19 12:00 p.m.
@Lake Charles, LA
vs. Mcneese

3/26/19 3:00 p.m.
@ Grambling, LA
vs. Grambling

Baseball

3/22/19 6:30 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Lamar

3/23/19 2:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Lamar

3/24/19 1:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Lamar

Stephen Kim couldn't have asked for more

Samantha Clark
Copy Editor



Stephen Kim hands Powerade to player. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

Basketball fans love the power of the game. The fast-paced plays, a buzzer-beating basket from the three, rallying behind their favorite team. But behind-the-scenes is a passionate athletic trainer working with these guys daily to rehabilitate them into the best player they can be on the floor.

Stephen Kim is now in his second year of his Graduate Assistantship with the NSU men's basketball team. After attending Baylor University for four years, Kim decided to apply at NSU after hearing about this program from an athletic trainer at Baylor. Even though he applied to many other colleges and universities, he chose NSU because they offered him men's basketball, where his true passion lies.

Kim has played basketball his entire life. He fell in love with the game at an early age, and he's never let go of it. It became a stress reliever in his life.

"Whatever's happening in my life, I can just come on the floor with the ball and shoot for hours and just take my mind off things," Kim said. "It's pretty cheesy, but basketball's always been there for me."

His love and passion for the game has continuously grown, and it doesn't go unnoticed by his coaching staff.

Head Coach Mike McConathy describes Kim as a "breath of fresh air." Coach McConathy said Kim's passion for the game shows in his work and that he is a great influence on the team.

"If all our players were as passionate as Stephen Kim, it'd be hard for us to lose a ball game," Coach McConathy said.

Kim is also very grateful for the staff at NSU. This program grants him the independence to grow as a trainer and figure out what does and doesn't work for him, which is something that most athletic trainers don't get to experience.

This program also gave him an opportunity he never thought was available. He got to dress out at the end of last season and play in a varsity game. When Coach McConathy would tell Kim he'd like to see him dress out last season, Kim thought he was joking. Then one day Coach McConathy gave him a jersey, shoes and a locker, and his childhood dream became a reality.

"It was very surreal to me to say the least," Kim said. "I had given up that dream after high school to play college ball, but Coach Mike and the coaching staff gave me the opportunity to play. It was really a dream come true."

This year Kim had to rehabilitate two major point guards back to health. While watching athletes get injured is the worst part of the job for Kim and heartbreaking, getting players healthy again and watching them get back on the floor and succeed is the best part.

After Kim gets his master's at the end of this semester, he plans on moving to Missouri to marry his fiancé and college sweetheart Janet. Since he started his assistantship in Natchitoches and she started medical school in Missouri, they've been in a long-distance engagement.

Kim recognizes that it's difficult to talk every day since they're both constantly busy, but that doesn't mean that they don't love each other or don't want to talk. They just have to be understanding of each other's schedules and each other's lives.

Kim thinks more about leaving and getting married now than when his assistantship began, but he's truly loved being able to be a part of the team here and having such a supportive coaching staff.

"I can trust that they're just so supportive of me, and it's been so great," Kim said. "I think that and being part of the basketball team is the best part of being here. As long as the team wins games, I'm happy with that. I couldn't have asked for more."

Delafield named Southland Conference Hitter of the Week

Matt Vines
Assistant Director of Communications

NATCHITOCHES -- Northwestern State sophomore designated player E.C. Delafield was named the Southland Conference Hitter of the Week, the league announced Monday.

Delafield went 5-for-8 as NSU (13-13, 5-1 SLC) swept Abilene Christian in the second league series of the season.

The Stonewall native provided six RBIs and four runs scored as she was an offensive engine that slugged 1.625.

"It's awesome for (Delafield) to get this kind of recognition, and she was part of a lineup that had production from top to bottom this weekend," Pickett said. "She's stepped into that designated player and has been huge for us in the middle of our lineup.

"Her home run in the first game was big for us because it pushed our lead out for the first win of the series."

The weekly hitting honor is NSU's second of the season after freshman Alexis Perry took home the award on Feb. 26.

Three of Delafield's five hits went for extra bases -- a home run and a triple that was part of a 7-2 win in the opener before she delivered a home run in the 9-0 finale win.

The pair of home runs were Delafield's first in her career.

Delafield set the offensive tone for the series when her second-inning triple gave NSU a 2-0 lead in the opener. ACU hung around down 5-2 and threatened to take momentum, but Delafield crushed a two-run home run that sealed the win.

Her solo home run in the finale also started the scoring.

With the fantastic weekend, Delafield raised her season batting average to .341 and has 10 RBIs as she's cemented herself in the heart of the NSU lineup.

NSU returns to action Wednesday when they host Louisiana Tech in a 6 p.m. contest. The Lady Demons get back into conference play with a weekend series at McNeese starting Friday.



E.C. Delafield, #15, is a hit with success this week. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

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NSYou

How do you empower women?



I spend my time proving that anything thinkable is possible. I strive for women to recognize what they bring to the table and not be afraid to occasionally eat alone.

Kierra Linden
Sophomore



For me personally, I think complimenting women can empower them. I also like to tell women to walk like they are going to take over the world. One more thing is to own your body.

Rachel Chimeno
Sophomore



I think I can empower women by simply being myself. I plan to empower women by showing that everyone is already perfect by not being glamorous all the time. I am going to be a teacher to empower children to be who they are.

Rachael Coyne
Junior



I empower women by leading young girls through scouting programs. I teach them to believe in themselves and set goals and then reach for and achieve those goals. Knowing that they are strong and beautiful.

Sarah Leduff
Junior

DemonFest 2019 gets students in the 'moood'

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Dozens of students gathered last Friday night to take part in the seventh annual DemonFest on the Iberville Green.

The music festival, hosted by NSU's KNWD-FM., is a yearlong process with many hours of hard work culminating in a one-night performance.

Cinnamon Player, senior, was this year's DemonFest volunteer coordinator. Player said her favorite thing about the festival was getting to see the crowd having fun.

"It's good to see the positive reactions after all the hard work we put in," Player said.

The day started with performances from Advance the Light, MYOT, VALE, BluVooDoo, The Sweet Tea Band, Lip Candy and VV$nipes. With bands alternating between the big stage and the small stage, there wasn't much downtime between performances.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, The Green House Collective, Ms. Charm, Calamity and Rella also performed throughout the evening.

Julie Breaux, senior, said she thought the most exciting thing about DemonFest was discovering new music to listen to.

Festival-goers weren't limited to just watching the bands. Other activities included making flower crowns, getting dazzled with glitter and coloring pages.

Hailie Coutee, junior, worked as a volunteer at one of the activity stations. Coutee said she decided to volunteer because she "genuinely enjoys the experience."

The night ended with the festival's two most highly-anticipated acts: the Seratones and Doja Cat, known for her hit single "Mooo!" The crowd, some clad in cow-themed clothing, gathered as close to the stage as possible while singing and dancing along with the artists.

Some guests took part in a meet and greet with Doja Cat.







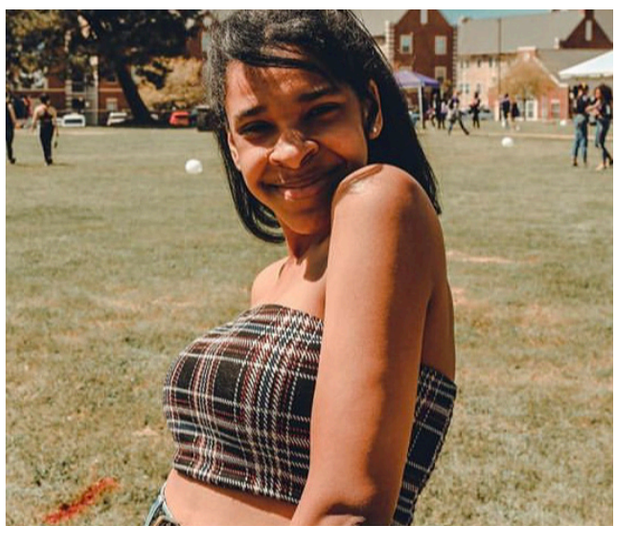
Headliner Doja Cat performed her hit song "Mooo!" and more on the newly built Iberville Stage as the final act of DemonFest. "Mooo!" grew attention after the artist posted a music video of her dressed as a cow, eating a hamburger and singing the iconic lyrics, "Bitch, I'm a cow." Other local artists like Advance the Light and VALE performed on another stage located on Iberville Green earlier in the day. *Photos by Christian Boudreaux.*

Students share their DemonFest experience on social media

All photos can be found on Instagram at @s.tudio.



Sophomore Maci Walgomotte and freshmen Dylan Fuselier and Brenna LeGlue throw up their forks. *Photo by Dhaija Smith.*



Sophomore theater major Shari Wilson enjoys some sun rays and smiles for a photo between sets. *Photo by Dhaija Smith.*



Students Serena Bonnette, Madeline Monlezun and Elisha Scott sit at Iberville Green. *Photo by Dhaija Smith.*

Efflorescence project takes shape in Fournet Hall

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

As the climate changes, it causes numerous environmental shifts. One such shift is the increase of rainfall, which in turn causes surges in flooding and driving rain. Both flooding and driving rain have the potential to impact how salts move in historic masonry structures.

There is currently research on NSU Campus being overseen by Marissa Bartz, an intern at National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. In the research, Bartz is trying to understand efflorescence on the historic low fired brick.

The migration and creation of salt crystals also known as efflorescence can cause severe damage in masonry, which makes this research critical for preserving historic brick buildings.

This research focuses on the evaluation of five commercial anti-efflorescence products that were applied to salvaged historic bricks. The parameters used to select the five anti-efflorescence products includes marketing for prevention of anti-efflorescence on brick, toxicity, diverse chemical composition and availability in the United States.

"This research took place over a two-year time period at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training with funding from the National Park Service Climate Change Response Program," Bartz said.

This project is funded by the National Park Service Climate Change Response Program and the bricks were purchased specifically for this project currently in Fournet Hall.

Bartz said the project is composed of two parts. The first includes seven test walls which are constructed with salvaged historic brick and impregnated with salts from simulated groundwater. Then the walls are coated with one of the products and weathered by simulated driving rain.

The second component of the experiment is comprised of individual brick coupons that also are impregnated with salts and coated with the same five products. The objective is to assess the coatings' performance in a real-world scenario when implemented to protect a brick and mortar system from damage associated with salt efflorescence.

In both parts of the experiment, measurements of color, gloss, compressive strength, and salt content are recorded prior to the product application, after the product application, and upon conclusion of the weathering process. Other measurements taken for part one includes moisture content and the rate of water absorption.

"I am still currently collecting data for this project, so I have yet to come to any definitive conclusions. I should have something concrete in the next month or so," Bartz said.

"I think Merissa is doing a really good job that is going to affect the way the National Parks Service look at anti efflorescence," said Mary Striegel, chief research scientist and manager for a federal laboratory specializing in historic preservation and art conservation.

Stay Current

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Quote of the Week

"Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth."

Albert Einstein

2 **Arts & Living, Sports:** 'Devil May Cry 5' is a legendary return to the action game genre

3 **Viewpoints:** The problem isn't guns; it's just evil.

4 **Back:** The Spring Breakers Panel

‘Devil May Cry 5’ is a legendary return to the action game genre

Anthony Renteria
Reporter



***Devil May Cry 5* promotional art.**

How I would describe the “Devil May Cry” series? Pure. Action. Bliss.

Ever since 2001, “Devil May Cry” invented the “hack and slash” genre and has been the golden standard of the genre. This was only accomplished within three games, the last one releasing back in 2008.

A divisive reboot also released in 2013 that didn’t live up to the quality the franchise was known for. This led to poor sales and uncertainty about the future of the franchise.

But now, the fifth entry by the team at Capcom is finally here, and it exceeds expectations by being the best “hack and slash” I’ve ever played. “Devil May Cry” has been known to aim for a gothic/anime look, but the game has a more photo-realistic look that is gorgeous.

Fighting demons is what you are going to do for most of your time playing “Devil May Cry 5”, and it helps that the characters are well equipped to deal with the challenge at hand. Instead of focusing on defeating enemies, “Devil May Cry 5” encourages the player to play efficiently while looking sick as you do so.

Story wise (is it story-wise, storywise or story wise?), the game takes place after the events of “Devil May Cry 4” where a mysterious person takes Nero’s demonic arm and uses it to summon a demon tree in a lust for power.

It sounds complicated, but the game doesn’t take itself too seriously.

We get to see the return of old characters like Lady and Trish and callbacks to other “Death May Cry” media like Morrison who was in the animated series. Newcomer Nico was my favorite addition to the cast because she has a unique personality, and her banter with Nero house a few of the best moments in the game.

Nero, returning from “Death May Cry 4”, has a new mechanic called “Devil breakers.” These are expendable robotic arms with differing abilities like air dodging, time manipulation, a drill and much more. This makes him more of a unique character than his “Death May Cry 4” counterpart.

Out of the three characters, Nero is my favorite to play as.

An all new character, V, has a different playstyle where he can summon other demons to fight for him while he reads poetry. He was a bit difficult to get used to, but after some practice I was able to comfortably play as him.

Out of every game in the “Death May Cry” series, Dante’s integration in “Death May Cry 5” is the best one yet.

His combat repertoire is insane with four styles, four weapons with multiple modes, four types of guns and two forms. Each one of these can be swapped or cancelled on the fly to chain together combos.

Even a “Death May Cry” veteran might be overwhelmed with the number of things this legendary devil hunter can do.

“Devil May Cry 5” is a game that hardcore action players shouldn’t skip. It reintroduces the action formula that worked 10 years ago that people seem to have forgotten and improves on it slightly for the modern age.

It reminds me why I love gaming, and I’m going to be playing it for years as it’s great to see that the “Devil May Cry” series is back.

After you beat the game, you unlock harder difficulties and extra abilities. Going through a second time was just as fun as the first, and the challenge ramps up from there.

The “Death May Cry” series is notorious for its harder difficulties, and “Death May Cry 5” is no exception.

After beating Son of Sparda on hard, you unlock Dante Must Die. Next is Heaven and Hell, and finally, there is Hell and Hell where you die in only one hit.

More content is coming to the game on Monday with the addition of the Bloody Palace mode.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Friday, March 29 - Thursday, April 4
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Dumbo (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:30 4:10 7:00 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:10 7:00 9:30
Shows in 3D:
Friday- Sunday: 2:30 5:15 6:50 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 5:15

US (R)
Friday- Sunday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 8:00 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 6:50 8:00 9:20

Wonder Park (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:30 7:10 9:30

Captain Marvel (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:40 4:00 6:45 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 7:00 9:30

A Madea Family Funeral (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:15 7:00 9:30

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!!

(318) 352-5109
Box Office Opens 30 Mins Before First Show
1011 Keyser Ave.
www.acadianacinemas.com

‘ATs are health care’

Samantha Clark
Copy Editor



Jalon Sangster, #90, receives aid from ATs. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

NATCHITOCHES - These team members are at every practice. Every game. Even most games played on the road.

They don’t have a jersey number. They don’t play for a conference title or post-season play. They don’t gear up in gloves, cleats and helmets.

Even though they don’t get playing time in a game, their presence is crucial. They must be there to help a player when he or she gets injured during the season. They do pre-care and after-care to make sure athletics stay in pristine shape.

They provide crucial knowledge that no one else at the game knows.

Athletic trainers are the unsung heroes of sports.

Created to acknowledge the hard work that goes into athletic training, March is honored as National Athletic Training Month. During last Wednesday’s Lady Demons softball game against LA Tech, NSU’s sports medicine department was recognized for their commitment to the student athletes’ overall health.

The sports medicine department is comprised of a director, associate director and assistant director of sports medicine; an assistant director athletic trainer; seven graduate assistant positions; six student workers; a director of rehabilitation; a head team physician; and two team physicians.

Jason Drury has been the director of sports medicine since 2012. Before being promoted to director, he was the head football athletic trainer and worked with women’s soccer and men’s basketball.



Taylor Wilkes, Kollen Brown, Jason Drury and Greg Burke smile for a photo on the baseball field. *Chris Reich.*

Every graduate assistant on NSU’s sports medicine staff is a board-certified athletic trainer. They have gone through an undergraduate athletic training program and are working towards their master’s while getting work experience.

NSU’s sports medicine student workers choose to be in this department instead of getting placed here by student employment. They must be interviewed and meet certain department qualifications. This gives them an opportunity to earn professional hours before going to graduate school.

“ATs are health care” is the theme of this year’s National Athletic Training Month, which is sponsored by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA), a not-for-profit organization based in Dallas, Texas.

For more information about NSU’s department of sports medicine, call 318-357-4035 go to https://nsudemons.com/sports/2017/11/1/sports-medicine-home-page.aspx

Louisiana Purchase

Homemade Fudge & Confections
Bluebell Icecream
Craft Sodas
Nostalgic Candy

NSU Students receive 10% discount with current student ID
Located @ 550 Front St.
Find us online @
www.frontstreetfudge.com

Follow our social media!

lousisanapurchase
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Disney and Fox's merger was a mistake

Christian Boudreaux
Contributing Photographer

First, a disclaimer: I really like Disney, and a lot of people I know are Disney fans too.

Like most people my age, Disney holds a special place in my heart. I have plenty of fond memories of its movies and shows from when I was a kid.

I say this as a fan of Disney and not as someone who just hates Disney buying out Fox.

It has terrible implications that can change, and already has changed, film and TV for the worse. This whole takeover of Fox makes Disney look less like a house of creativity and inspiration and instead a Hollywood equivalent to Wal-Mart.

It's just a massive corporation.

When the deal actually went through last Wednesday, after a year and a half, thousands of employees on the business end were laid off.

An entire film division of Fox like Fox 2000, responsible for movies like "The Hate U Give" and "Hidden Figures", is going to be completely shuttered after their current slate of movies is complete.

Also, Disney now has its hands on more well-known film series. Just think that Disney now owns movies like "Alien," "Die Hard" and "Avatar." Even when you look past film, Disney now owns the rights to TV shows like "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy."

Please don't take this as me ranting that Disney is bad. I love Disney, and I know that this news won't have a noticeable effect on most of its fans.

But I notice it, and it worries me. No single corporate or entertainment entity should have as much control as Disney now has.

As someone who uses films to escape from reality, having fewer choices for what content is now made just saddens me. Disney is big enough that it can do whatever it wants and get away with it because it's so massive.

I like Disney, but I don't want EVERYTHING to be associated with them. I want some variety with the movies I watch.

I'm not going to sit here and tell you not to like Disney or to stop this from happening. The second half of the sentence is already impossible.

It's too late. It already happened.

If you want to do something about this problem, just realize that this is a problem. Understand where the entertainment you enjoy is coming from, and never be afraid to be frustrated when everything begins to look the same.

Go out and try new things when it comes to entertainment. Support indie movies, or just see different movies like Jordan Peele's "Us." I know I will.

The problem isn't guns; it's just evil.

John Lee Hurt
NSU Student

"When will America get with the gun program?"

"When will Republicans care about lives outside the womb as much as they care about those in?"

"When will gun violence end?"

"It works for Europe and Australia, and now it'll work for New Zealand."

These are the ideas we hear every time there's a mass shooting. This time it was in New Zealand.

Before I go any further, let me make something very clear. No person should be targeted because of their faith, and their house of worship should always be a safe place.

Europe is often seen as the leader in modern gun control. According to a 2016 article by "The Guardian," there were two major shootings that lead to the U.K.'s ban on semi-automatic rifles and pump action shotguns.

That, of course, quickly dropped the gun violence rates in the U.K., or said to at least, and over time the gun bans became stricter.

According to another article by "The Guardian" from April 2018, gun and knife violence rose.

The article said that knife violence increased by 22 percent in 2017 and that there were 668 homicides including 35 people in terror attacks in London and Manchester.

Despite these statistics, gun violence still happens enough so that the rate is rising.

Where guns are restricted, knife violence happens.

Of those 668 people killed by knives, does it make grieving their deaths easier because it wasn't a gun?

The terror attacks of London and Manchester are important in the gun violence debate. Unfortunately, evil people will find a way to do evil things. The Manchester attack was a suicidal bomber.

I hate to tell my fellow conservatives who are "Tactical Teds" that you can't really defend against a bomber like you can a shooter.

London has had 10 terrorist attacks, from driving vehicles into crowds to car bombs to knives.

Evil people will find a way to be evil.

That's just one country, right?

The Berlin Truck Attack happened in Germany on Dec. 19, 2016. According to the "Washington Post", Germany has some of the strictest gun laws in the world.

Evil still happened.

Boston's official gvernment website has a copy of the ordinance banning assault weapons. Dated at the bottom of that letter is "Approved Dec. 15, 1989," but the Boston Marathon bombings happened in 2013.

The problem never has been, and never will be, firearms. The problem is evil. Sick people have no regard for human life.

Don't let people sell you into fear. Know the truth and decide on your own. Be smart in your decisions.

The Spring Breakers

A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT SEX, RAPE CULTURE, CONSENT, AND MORE.

MARCH 29

1PM

CANE RIVER ROOM

FRIEDMAN STUDENT UNION



JASMINE FRAZIER

KNWD

JACOB ELLIS

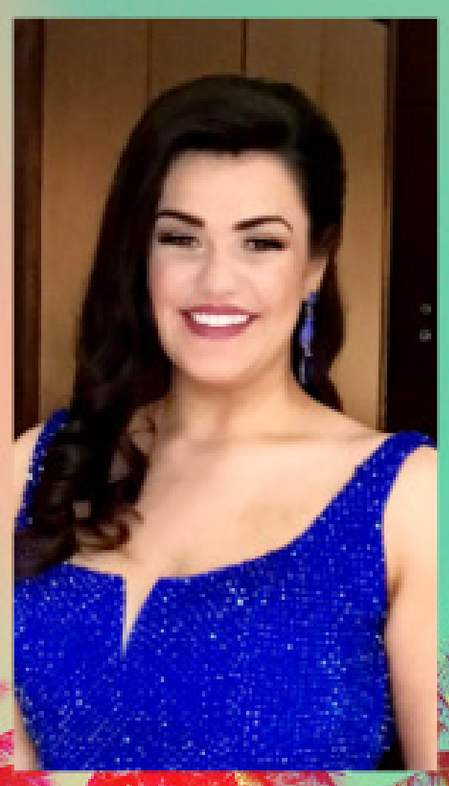
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Junior Libby Blair and Dr. Chris Lyles, pictured right, were the winners at this year's Dancing with the Sigmas. Left, Joseph Biscoe and Kelsi Horn pose for a picture with their trophy. *Submitted photos.*

Dancing with the Sigmas may come to an end

Keator Poleman
Associate Editor

Raising $11,800 for Sigma Serves Children, March of Dimes and their building fund, NSU's Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority hosted its eighth, and possibly last, Dancing with the Sigmas on March 28.

Dancing with the Sigmas, a play on the TV show "Dancing with the Stars," is the sorority's annual philanthropic fundraising event.

In its eight-year run, the event has raised over $77 thousand for their charity event.

While the sorority originally planned for this to be its final Dancing with the Sigmas, Abby Reynolds, senior and Sigma Sigma Sigma president, said they are reconsidering keeping it following calls to do so.

Reynolds said the original reason for dropping the competition was to give the community a "new and exciting" philanthropic event.

Like its TV namesake, Dancing with the Sigmas features a dancer and "celebrity" partner competing for the chance to win the mirror ball trophy.

The "celebrity" performers are male members of the Natchitoches community, and their partners are members of the sorority.

This year's winners were Dr. Chris Lyles, assistant professor for the School of Biological and Physical Sciences, and Libby Blair, junior member of Sigma Sigma Sigma.

"I was truly shocked when Dr. Lyles and I won," Blair said.

Since joining the sorority, Blair said she has always wanted to participate in Dancing with the Sigmas but was concerned about not knowing how to do the choreography.

Kara Davis, senior and chairwoman of Dancing with the Sigmas, assured Blair she would have help from the other sisters when learning the dance moves.

Davis said her committee found the celebrity dancers at the end of January and began practicing in February. Each team chose their own theme, music and costumes.

"I am greatly pleased with the outcome of this year's Dancing with the Sigmas," Davis said. "It is humbling to see our community come together to raise money for our philanthropy and house fund."

Another participant, senior Katie Baronne, danced with Matt Clark for their performance. She said the competition was a lot of fun.

"The guys are such good sports," Baronne said. "They get up there and give it their all every year, and it always makes for a good show."



Submitted photo.

Alpha Beta Alpha establishes new chapter at NSU

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Alpha Beta Alpha fraternity, located in the Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library, is NSU's newly-established special interest organization at the Natchitoches campus.

Emily Smith, freshman and vice president of Alpha Beta Alpha, said this is the fraternity's first active semester. There are currently ten active members.

In order to join, Smith said students must be in good standing with the university, have a 2.5 GPA and be willing to help with volunteer work. Smith said the volunteer requirement is so that Alpha Beta Alpha can be student centered.

"We want to help out whenever and wherever we can around not only NSU but Natchitoches in general," Smith said.

Patricia Brown, a librarian at Watson Memorial Library, said the fraternity holds its meetings once a month.

Brown said the organization puts together projects such as reading to dogs and cats at the local animal shelter and putting up displays in the library. They also brought dogs to the library to help students de-stress during midterms.

Sara Rebstock, freshman, historian and reporter for Alpha Beta Alpha, said the fraternity is currently working on creating study groups and a book club for next semester. Although the groups would be run by Alpha Beta Alpha, Rebstock said they would be open to any students interested in joining.

According to their OrgSync page, the group plans to have public service projects that include reading to animals, children and the elderly, as well as many other literary based events.

NORTHWESTERN STATE
START THE SPARK SERIES
presents
Dr. Nita Landry
co-host from the Emmy Award winning show "The Doctors"





Photo credits: http://drnitalandry.com/

Q & A Session with Dr. Nita Landry
Wednesday, April 17
Meet and Greet: 10:30-11:00
Lecture: 11:00-12:00
Russell Hall, Room 107

For free tickets to go:
eventbrite.com/e/nsus-school-of-business-start-the-spark-series-presents-dr-nita-landry-tickets-59715450520.

Seats are limited.

We are failing as a university

Opinion Piece

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

My time at Northwestern State University has been very good to me. It has helped shape me into the person I am today, and it will always be near and dear to my heart. Nevertheless we, as a university, both student and faculty, are selling ourselves short.

This school has geared generations of students towards success, and yes, those successes should be celebrated. Recent infrastructural additions, an approachable and compassionate faculty, and an overall welcoming environment all point to an institution that cares.

Indeed, our school's motto is "Dedicated to one goal: Yours." But despite several successive semesters of record enrollment, I fear this university isn't equipping its enrollees to actually meet their goals.

In a country where 44 million Americans collectively hold $1.5 trillion in student debt, the last thing we want is to graduate with a degree that doesn't enable us to find a job which would pay off that debt. Or perhaps just as bad, to hold a Bachelor's without having the knowledge one should have by the time they've obtained that degree.

It's easy to forget what exactly universities are for, and even why exactly we're here. For millennia before us, the university was seen as the pinnacle of advanced critical thinking, a place where knowledge is celebrated and pursued. NSU unfortunately exemplifies the opposite.

Whereas less fortunate youth all around the world in peripheral nations long for higher education, we celebrate when our professors cancel class so we can stay at home and watch Netflix. Sometimes we even skip class because we're so hungover from the night before.

I fear we are a student body that, by and large, does not value academia as it should. Perhaps this trend is generational, but I suspect region also plays a part. Louisiana has some of the lowest educational rates in the nation. If our leaders don't prioritize education, why would anyone down the totem pole prioritize it?

continued on page 3

Stay Current

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Quote of the Week

"There could be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others."

George H. W. Bush

2 **Arts & Living, Sports:** Athlete of the Week: Cullen McDonald

3 **Viewpoints:** Nipsey Hussle was the Tupac of our generation

4 **Back:** Guest speaker Craig Silverman: Fake news, the media and you

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic, spring break was so relaxing how do you shake back and return to school mode?

A Hey guys, like you all, I enjoyed myself at the beach over the break! I became very lazy, and I'm now getting back into the groove of things. Here's some tips to keep in mind:
1. Begin going to sleep early.
2. Set reminders for your homework and assignments. It is difficult to go from not doing anything to completing ten assignments per week.
3. Hydrate! If you enjoyed your fair share of "spirits" over the break, you'll need to rehydrate your body.
4. Lastly, study hard because finals will be here before you know it! More on that coming soon.

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Athlete of the Week

Cullen McDonald

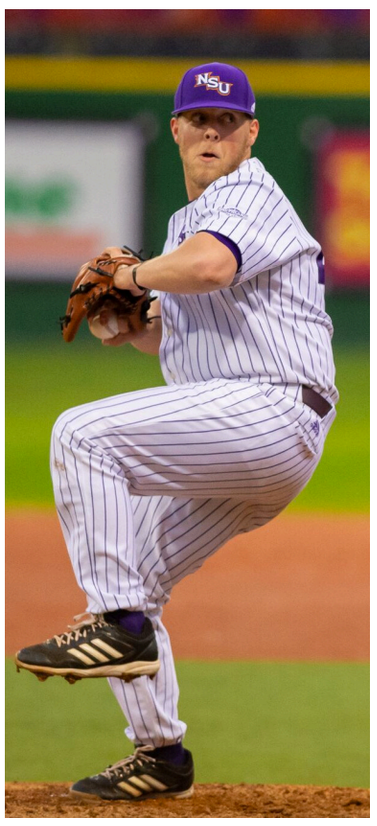
Leron Massey
Reporter

"Losing is essential to anyone's success. The more you lose, the more you want to win." -Brett Hull June the third, the Northwestern State University demon's baseball crew went head to head against the Louisiana State University Tigers in the 2018 D1 Baseball championship. After losing in the elimination bracket Northwestern State University played LSU again and won with a score of 3-1.

Senior right-handed pitcher Cullen McDonald has been on an outright tear since the season began. Helping his group to a 12-9 record and 5-4 in conference play. He's posted season highs in strikeouts just as well in IP value of 7.2 against in state rival Louisiana State University. Against LSU he held the baseball crew to one go through 7.2 innings which was their first win against the tigers since 2011.

"My changeup has been one of my worst pitches and after all the hard work and effort in the fall, it's turned out to be a standout amongst my best pitches this season." Said McDonald

Cullen has the second most in innings pitched on the team with 27.1; he is likewise second in the group with an ERA of 1.65. Cullen says his objective is "to win conference again and make it back to the tournament." The next home game is April second against Mississippi Valley State.



Cullen McDonald, #40, pitches high in strikeouts.
Photo by Chris Reich.

Eyes of Argus

Butterbeer Frappucino

Shundrika Smith
NSU Student

I wanna love you like
Starbucks' hidden
menu
all new and sweet and
wondrous
bursting with weird
flavors
that mix and combine
and set my atmosphere
alight
propelling me past the
planets
kissing Pluto's dead
light
and, oh! the sight of
my love
crashes into me, wild
and free
tracings galaxies upon
me
as we simmer so
sweetly
here in this make-
believe reality
two stars twirling
madly
unabashedly denying
gravity

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Friday, April 12 - Thursday, April 18
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Little (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:30 4:10 7:00 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:10 7:00 9:30

Missing Link (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:40 4:20 7:10 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:20 7:10 9:20

Unplanned (R)
Friday- Sunday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 6:50 9:20

Shazam! (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:10 3:50 6:40 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 3:50 7:00 9:30

Pet Sematary (R)
Friday- Sunday: 1:30 4:10 7:00 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:10 7:00 9:30

Dumbo (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 6:50 9:30

Breakthrough (PG) (Starts April 17th)
Wednesday & Thursday: 4:00 6:50 9:30

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!!

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Box Office Opens 30 Mins Before First Show
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NSYou

New Senate Edition

As a senator, what would you add to NSU?



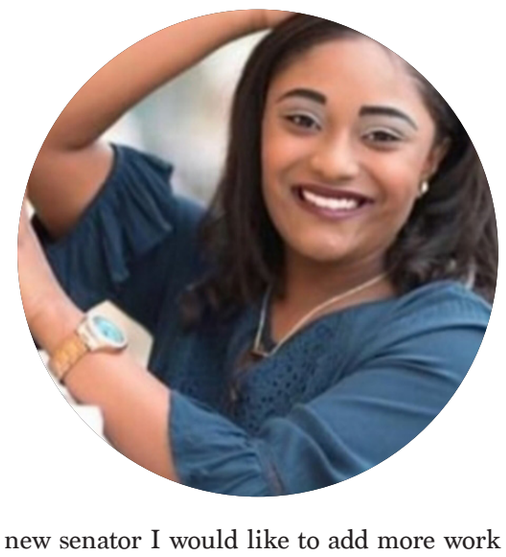
"I would add some new fresh ideas to campus. One idea I have is a mural on campus that would be unique to NSU. My main focus overall would be what the student body wants added to campus and act on it."

Brandon Gay
Sophomore



"I would add a new communication system to address students' concerns more efficiently."

Sheradin Douglas
Sophomore



"As a new senator I would like to add more work studies because some students need a work study to be able to pay for whatever they need and to also improve their major. I think NSU should get work studies for every department to allow students to learn things within their area of study."

Gabrielle Chapman
Sophomore



"I would personally bring leadership to the position, and I would like to be a voice for our student body. I would like to be that driving voice that gets things done and always keep my word."

Phillip Bullitt
Junior



The original columns sit on Normal Hill. *Photo by Brianna Fife.*

My love for NSU is infinite

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

I will love NSU for eternity.

Some people think I'm saying this because I'm a sophomore, but I don't think that's the case. If my high school self could see me now, she wouldn't be able to recognize me.

I was terrified of coming to college because I felt like I wouldn't make any friends or find a place, but I did.

NSU has presented me with so many opportunities and I wouldn't be who I am today without them. I meet incredible people, faculty and students alike, every day.

I wish that I remember all the greatest moments at NSU, but I know that it isn't possible. In 10 years, I won't remember stressing over midterms and finals or the pointless fights that I had with friends.

With that said, I don't love the fact that NSU doesn't focus on diversity in administration and students as much as it should, but I know that NSU could work on bringing in more people from all walks of life to teach and study here.

There also needs to be more of a focus on other majors, not just on education and nursing.

NSU has so many great openings for students to take advantage of, but because a lot of students don't hear about them, they don't take advantage of it. A lot of students who aren't in Greek life have expressed that they don't receive as many opportunities or chances opposed to those in Greek life.

That may seem true that Greek life students are recognized more and are in more organizations but being in Greek life doesn't mean they automatically get certain positions or are favored.

Greek life students are just really involved, and you don't have to be in Greek life to be involved on campus. I hope that in the future NSU makes that a bit clearer so that all students can feel that they are treated equally.

During my time at NSU I hope to make students more comfortable and confident in themselves.

I want to show the world that NSU is a such a fantastic school and that coming here will not be regretted. I want students to be proud that they have come and studies in the small town of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Most importantly, I hope to become the person that I have always wanted to be by the time I step into my own classroom full of little second grade students. I know that NSU is going to prepare me well and I'm so grateful for that. My love for NSU is something that I will always hold near and dear to my heart.

We are failing as a university

continued from page 1

See, the problem isn't simply with us, the students; it is institutional.

Many of our teachers, while well-intentioned, do not stay on topic in the classroom. They lead the class in talking about their personal lives, Natchitoches gossip or off-topic discussion regarding politics and culture. It's no wonder that we often don't get to cover everything outlined in the syllabus.

Ask yourself: How many times have you attended a class and left it having learned only the bare minimum?

Have you ever, like myself, grown frustrated by required attendance to a class whose instructor rambles on throughout about matters that have nothing to do with the course material?

I, personally, have been in an Economics class where the professor chose to talk about the latest political news.

I've been in an English class where the class simply discussed the latest campus gossip. And this is what we're paying thousands of dollars for?

It's not just off-topic discussions that are holding us back. Sometimes we are on-topic and the quality of the class is simply low, with the professor not clearly defining what it is we should be learning or not doing enough to challenge the students sitting in on the lecture.

The result? Bright minds grow bored. They take out their cell phones to scroll through Facebook and Twitter, and who can blame them? After all, they're not even receiving the education that they're paying so much for.

What I am describing is a campus climate distinct to NSU, and it is on both the student and the faculty to call for changes to be implemented.

While certainly not every student will share my concerns or experiences, I've talked with enough of my fellow Demons to know this is a problem. The solution, from my point of view, is clear.

We need stronger oversight of what our teachers are saying and doing in the classroom. I have not put myself thousands of dollars in debt to discuss their personal lives or views of the modern culture.

They are being paid for the service of instruction, and they need to be doing a better job of that.

On the other hand, we as students should not only take our studies more seriously, but the hard truth is that we need more strenuous homework assignments.

That means more 10-page essays instead of three. (We all know how easy it is to fill three pages with nothing but fluff, and that's not learning.)

We need worksheets that will require us to read and truly wrestle with what is written in our textbooks, not just find an easily-located vocabulary term.

I don't say any of this to bad-mouth my alma mater, nor take away from NSU's very real accomplishments, of which we should all be proud.

NSU is known for its top-notch nursing program, and our performing artists are among the best in the state for a reason.

The people who run this school go out of their way to open doors for its attendees, and I am very grateful to NSU for helping shape me into the man I am today.

That said, if dramatic changes aren't made to our curriculums, this same tired cycle will just keep repeating itself.

The diploma they tell us we've earned will be nothing more than a piece of paper, bringing very little advantage to us in the real world.

Nipsey Hussle was the Tupac of our generation

Jasmine Frazier
Contributing Writer

A community leader, father, husband and teacher of growth just recently passed and it took a devastating toll on an entire community. Rapper Ermias Asghedom, or better known as Nipsey Hussle, was shot and killed in front of his store, The Marathon Clothing, in Los Angeles, California on March 31, 2019. His passing not only affected his loved ones but shook up the entire world.

Not many rappers give back to where they come from like they claim to do in their songs, but Nipsey was actually one of those rappers who wanted to create a change in his own backyard. He opened up his clothing store in the parking lot that he hung out in growing up. This parking lot did not always keep him out of trouble with the law. The previous storeowners to that location used to call the police when anyone was soliciting around the store.

Most of these individuals didn't have anywhere to go or anything to do and this parking lot was supposed to keep them out of trouble, but these minor run ins with the law did not make it easy. Nipsey's goal was to change the entire dynamic on that block and he did. He worked from the ground up to build a brand that the community loves and respects all because of what he stood for as person.

Now some may ask, how can someone with a history of gang violence be such an influential person? His life story is what made him to be a respected man who embodies the evolution of growth. Nipsey never hid his past and used it as a way to speak his truth.

He utilized his lyrics to encourage his fans to be the best they could be. The words he spoke were meant to leave a lasting impression on the individuals that had the opportunity of hearing his message. One thing Nipsey stood for was the marathon. The marathon is within us all. Everyone is living within his or her own marathon because of what we go through. Life is not a race and you will gain success at your own pace. I hope that the legacy Nipsey has left behind inspires all of us to care more about our communities and find ways to better ourselves.

Rest in peace, Nip.

The marathon continues.



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New lab powered by solar panels to be introduced in Fournet Hall

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter



Photo by Mekayla Jenkins.

Professor Dr. Gan Guly and Professor Michael Antoon are working alongside students in the Environmental Catalyst Organization and JOVE research to create a remodeled laboratory. One of the new assets is going to be that it will be powered by photovoltaic solar panels. The solar panels were the choice of electricity for the lab because they were both energy-saving and efficient for the activities to take place in the lab. The solar panels also promote renewable energy.

There is no estimate of when the lab will be completed. Antoon said that research is still being done on suppliers and working on raising money and applying for grants. ECO has begun raising money for the solar panels through their activities.

Amber Minor, a junior Business major at NSU, is president of ECO.

"It doesn't matter what your major is or what you want to do...it's for everybody. It predicts your future, your kids future, your dogs future. It determines if you're just going to live and pass it on to the next generation," said Minor when asked why being eco-friendly matters.

The goal of the new lab to study the purification of water through desalination. Desalination is the process of taking away mineral components from saline water. They plan to do so mainly through graphene, which is a porous material. Porous materials have enough spaces in them to hold onto the materials that are in saline water.

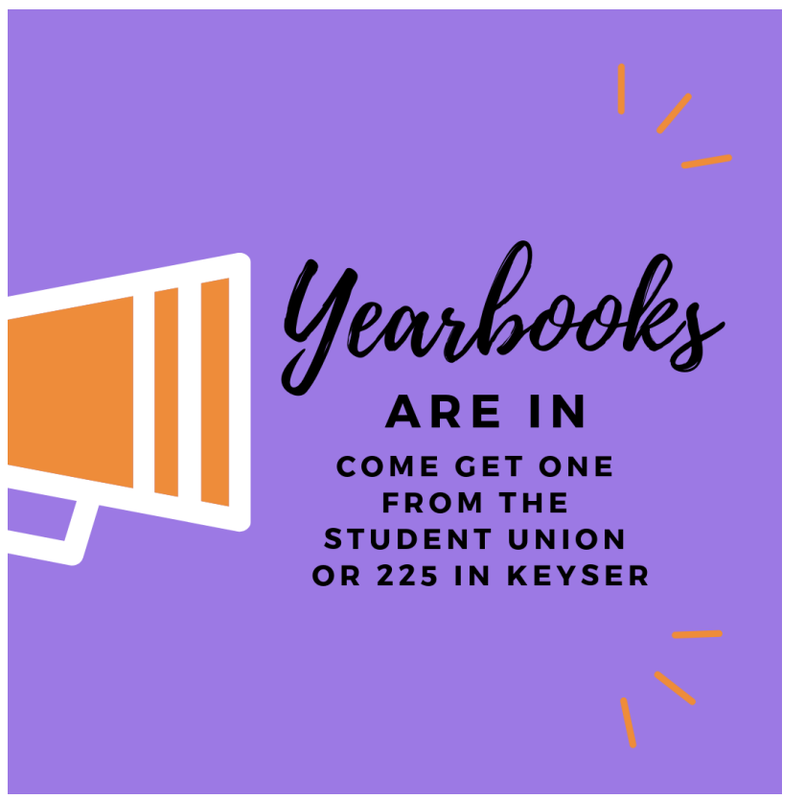
"Graphene is one of the materials, which is a porous material. Because you have those pores, you can easily purify water if you just put the graphene into water. All of the heavy toxic metals and materials can stick to graphene. You can take out that graphene and be left with purified water," said Guly.

"I'm trying to get Northwestern to be associated with being proactive environmental protection," said Antoon.

The lab itself is located next to Fournet 115, and will be mainly accessible to the students in both Antoon's classes and part of the JOVE scholar research. One student that has been active in the lab already is junior Olivia Warren.

"I've learned a lot from being in the lab...you gain experience. We're saving the environment. We want to further what we have now, and be hands on," said Olivia Warren, a junior Biology major at NSU. Warren expressed her excitement about being involved in the new lab.

JOVE scholarships are available to chemistry and physics majors through the NASA-JOVE program at the College of Science and Technology.



President's Leadership Program works toward community impact

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter

The President's Leadership Program is a freshman-based program that is described as being an immersive leadership course dedicated to future and emerging leaders at Northwestern State University. It can be taken in the place of the University Experience course required by all undergraduate degrees.

Chosen by demonstrating their ability to utilize leadership qualities while working towards a collective goal, the program is only eligible for first-year freshman who have been interviewed or recommended. It offers opportunities to not only serve the university at various events throughout the year, but also to make an impact in the surrounding area through community service opportunities.

"The class is provided to help develop us as leaders," said freshman biology major Hannah Durgin. "We are tested in new ways whether it is on the spot questions or things we have to think long and hard about."

This semester, the program is participating in a multitude of 'impact projects' designed to make a positive and tangible difference in the community.

"There are a wide range of projects we are doing this semester, from working with local elementary schools to assisting with the upkeep of the Ben Johnson gardens," said freshman history major Lauren Briscoe. "Students were allowed to choose what group they wanted to work with."

The students were given creative control over the planning of the project and how it would impact the community.

"These projects allow us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves," said freshman communications major Mekayla Jenkins. "I love being a part of a group of people making connections throughout the community of Natchitoches to better ourselves and others."

One of the projects being worked on by members of the President's Leadership Program is a 'girls supporting girls' group at the East Natchitoches Elementary & Middle School.

The group consists of freshmen Hannah Durgin, Mekayla Jenkins and Lauren Briscoe.

"We strive to help young girls understand the value of their worth, and to guide them in the right direction of how to respect themselves and others, all while embracing who they are," said Durgin.

"Our goal is to prepare today's girls to be tomorrow's women," said Jenkins.

At the close of the semester, each group will be asked to present their project, along with photographs of them engaging in the project that they've designed. They will be required to further explain how they've made an impact.

"This is something that can be continued a long time, whether it be 10 years or even 50 years-as long as there are people willing to step up and make a difference," said Durgin.

All three freshmen boasted upon the class's benefits, which consist of creating friendships, networking throughout the community and opening doors for future leadership and involvement opportunities.

"For years, PLP has helped lay the foundation for many successful student-leaders, and I'm confident they'll continue to do so for years to come!" said Briscoe.

Stealing Oceans, Waka Flocka Flame perform at UPC's annual spring fling 'Fork Out Fest'





Opening for Waka Flocka Flame, Stealing Oceans, pictured left, sits on a speaker and sings with the crowd. Waka Flocka, pictured right, performs at the end of Fork Out Fest on the Iberville Stage. *Photos by Brianna Fife.*

Stay Current

@thecurrentsauce

Quote of the Week

"Your value doesn't decrease based on someone's inability to see your worth."

Anonymous

2 **Arts & Living, Sports:** CAPA Corner: Hillary Frazier

3 **Viewpoints:** Has Gov. Edwards earned our vote for re-election?

4 **Back:** Guest Speaker: Craig Silverman

CAPA Corner: Hillary Frazier

Cassie Phillips
Lead Designer

When Hillary Frazier walks into the Print Shop with her sketchbook and black combat boots, every art student's face lights up. She freezes and laughs awkwardly as students exclaim how excited they are to see her.

As a graduate assistant in the fine arts department, she helps lead classes and aids students in critiquing and expanding their artistic abilities.

The Shreveport native received her undergraduate degree at Centenary College of Louisiana. She double-majored in studio art and communications.

The university didn't offer a graduate program, so she started considering some other options.

"I looked into other schools like La Tech, but I really liked NSU's facility," Frazier said.

"They have a lot more to offer than others. One major consideration I had when I was looking into this program was that everyone was just so welcoming."

Frazier's day begins at LSMSA where she works. After a lunch break, she heads over to a studio in CAPA and spends time doing what she loves: making art.

Most of the time, the work Frazier creates is for the graduate program. In addition, she produces art in her free time as much as possible.





Left, Frazier critiques a piece by Valeria Meza, a sophomore majoring in graphic communications. *Photo by Brianna Fife.* **Right, "I Want to Make Beauty, but My Body Won't Let Me," 11x17 Marker and Ink on Bristol.** *Art by Hillary Frazier.*

A few hours pass, and she leaves to attend whatever class she is scheduled for that day.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, freshman art students make the walk down the hill from the CAPA Annex to the Print Shop for their drawing class.

They file in through the back hallway, make a left and assume the positions.

The room is large, and half of the walls are covered in windows.

Light pours in every corner. Art pieces created by prior students line the walls.

Someone who's never picked up a paintbrush in her life would see inspiration bursting from the seams, but the art students feel otherwise.

Class starts, and students watch in awe as Clyde Downs, professor of painting and printmaking, produces a masterpiece before their eyes.

They stare, dumbfounded, thinking they'll never be that talented. He asks them to return to their seats and create a piece of their own.

They sit anxiously and try to finish the assignment for the in-class critique that will begin in 30 minutes.

Brianna Fife, a freshman majoring in fine arts, scrambles to throw something together. She looks at the walls and her fellow students for an idea, but her mind goes blank.

And then Frazier, with auburn hair and a nose ring, walks in, and everything feels a little more okay.

Eyes of Argus

Mixed Media Being

Dakota Newman
NSU Student

I think art is in my soul,
And paint is in my veins.
Acrylic is my skin,
And oil gives life to my features.

My body is a
palette of colors.
A colglomerate of techniques,
Mixed together to create,
An ever-changing portrait.
I am simply a mixed media being.

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

Perry spearheads offensive attack as NSU completes sweep of Islanders

Matt Vines
Assistant Director of Communications

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State freshman Alexis Perry spearheaded a steam-rolling offensive attack Sunday as the Lady Demons completed the sweep of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in an 8-0, five-inning win.

Perry produced a career-high four hits, including NSU's first and last RBIs to secure the run-rule victory.

After NSU (22-19, 12-6 Southland Conference) stranded four runners in the first two innings, Perry's RBI double in the third inning lifted the lid off the Lady Demon offense as it scored eight runs in the final three innings.

Facing a full count with a chance to end the game in five innings, Perry (4-for-4, two runs scored) delivered an RBI single to drive in her second run of the contest.

"I was really seeing the ball deeper into the plate, and I've been practicing getting deeper into counts, not getting super anxious on the first pitch," said Perry, who has 10 hits in her last five games. "I saw more pitches, and that's helped.

"We knew earlier in the week that weather was coming (Saturday's game postponed), but we were focused on the sweep this weekend. After (getting swept) at Nicholls, we had a lot of motivation because we wanted to show that that wasn't us."

With the sweep, NSU has won its last four games and kept pace in the conference standings, moving into a three-way tie for fourth



Alexis Perry, #42, produces career high four hits. *Photo by Chris Reich.*

with Stephen F. Austin (12-6 SLC) and Southeastern (12-6 SLC). Nicholls (15-3 SLC) is on a nine-game conference winning streak with Sam Houston State (14-4 SLC) and McNeese (14-4 SLC) tied for second.

NSU travels to Lamar (11-7 SLC) and SFA in the next two weekends before closing the regular season at home against Central Arkansas (7-11 SLC), who is fighting to keep its eighth-place spot.

On Sunday, Perry was part of an impressive middle of the lineup that put the pressure on the Islanders after TAMU-CC avoided early trouble.

Hitters in the No. 3-7 hole recorded 11 of NSU's 12 hits, including Emma Hawthorne tying a career-high three hits on a 3-for-3 day.

After Perry's opening double to give NSU a 1-0 lead in the third inning, Hawthorne doubled in two more for the 3-0 edge. The Islanders committed two of their three errors in the frame, leading to two unearned runs in the inning.

Hawthorne supplied the final RBI of a four-run fourth inning that put NSU firmly in control, 7-0.

"Our game plan was to wait for your pitch until two strikes, and I was able to get on a couple of inside pitches," said Hawthorne, who supplied a pair of doubles (career high) as NSU had five extra-base hits. "I'm seeing the ball in deep lately, and I've got great coaches and teammates to help support me.

"It's a long season, and you have to be focused every day. But we're supporting each other and getting through it."

NSU scored all four runs of the fourth inning with two outs, started by Kaitlyn St. Clair's solo home run.

"I think the wind helped my home run," St. Clair laughed. "I couldn't run very far today, so I'm glad that it got out.

"It's important to get the sweep, and it's hard to do that in this conference because we beat up on each other so much. It's so important to get every win we can."

Perry singled before E.C. Delafield lifted her fourth home run out of the park for a 6-0 edge. Riley Cantrell (2-for-3) singled ahead of Hawthorne's RBI double for the 7-0 advantage.

Delafield (1-for-2, two RBIs) helped herself in the circle as she picked up the relief win. Delafield homered in each of her pitching wins and finished the series with four RBIs.

NSU starter Bronte Rhoden tossed two scoreless inning, but the Islanders had three hits and a walk as they stranded four runners, including leaving the bases loaded in the first inning.

Delafield (6-2) skirted four hits and a walk in three scoreless innings as the Islanders stranded nine runners total.

The Stonewall native has five of her six wins in SLC play and was part of her second combined shutout of the season. NSU has six shutout wins.

For the Islanders, starter Kandace Johnson (6-11) received her second loss of the series after she allowed seven runs (five earned) in 3 2-3 innings.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Friday, April 19 - Thursday, April 25
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

The Curse of La Llorona (R)
Friday- Sunday: 1:40 4:20 7:10 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:20 7:10 9:30

Breakthrough (PG)
Friday- Monday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:20
Tuesday- Thursday: 4:20 7:10 9:20

Little (PG-13)
Friday- Monday: 1:30 4:10 7:00 9:30
Tuesday- Thursday: 4:10 7:00 9:30

Unplanned (R)
Friday- Monday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:20
Tuesday- Thursday: 4:00 6:50 9:20

Shazam! (PG-13)
Friday- Monday: 1:10 3:50 6:40 9:20
Tuesday- Thursday: 3:50 6:40 9:20

Missing Link (PG)
Friday- Monday: 1:40 7:10
Tuesday- Thursday: 7:10

Pet Sematary (R)
Everyday: 4:10 9:30

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!

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Gov. John Bel Edwards speaks at ULS day. *Photo by Christian Boudreaux.*

Has Gov. Edwards earned our vote for re-election?

John Lee Hurt
Contributing Writer

It's no secret the next Louisiana governor election is coming up. It's everywhere.

So far there's only a small pool of candidates running, and one of them is Gov. John Bel Edwards.

When Gov. Edwards originally campaigned for office, he spoke out on Bobby Jindal's pay for his staff. According to a Jan. 26, 2016, article by nola.com, he not only kept but raised salaries in some areas he criticized once in office.

Recently Gov. Edwards has been in the spotlight for encouraging teacher pay raises. I applaud him for that. Yes, please pay our teachers more. They deserve it!

I wonder though if this push comes from legitimate concern for teachers or for re-election proposes. It was hardly mentioned before. Republican or Democrat, I support a teacher pay raise.

He also has pushed for a minimum wage pay raise, something that is always controversial. Again, I have to question this timing.

According to a December 2018 article from "The Advocate" newspaper, Gov. Edwards has cozied up to President Trump in a re-election campaign preaching bipartisan efforts.

In August 2016, nola.com and several other news sources reported on Trump visiting Louisiana on almost what appeared to be a cold shoulder.

Seems like our governor is playing both sides of the coin.

I have to question these seemingly good ideas. I want us, as a state, to prosper, but does he actually care about us or just votes?

We need to elect a candidate who will fight for Louisiana within the state and on a national level. As of right now, I don't know who that is.

Vote wisely and vote often, Demons.

*Editor's note: The nola.com articles mentioned in this article are hyperlinked on the digital version at currentsauce.com.

The law of attraction

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

Congratulations. By deciding to read this article, you are one step closer to achieving whatever you want in this universe. Now, all you need to do is read carefully.

I discovered the secret I am about to share with you when I was back home in Nigeria. I was in high school barely making it. Once the secret was unveiled to me, my life drastically changed. I was able to graduate at the age of 15. I got a visa to come to America and graduate in an American high school in 5 months. I graduated from college with my first degree at the age of 19 and currently working on 3 more.

I became the president of two organizations and a member of many more, including the University Programming Council. I received the Martin Luther King jr. award from the city of Natchitoches. I led an organization to help over 1,000 kids and provided a clean water source in Nigeria. I led an organization to help people in Puerto Rico. I became the first student board member in the International Scholar's Honor Society. I have three jobs on-campus and I work off-campus (legally).

The secret is the "law of attraction." Simply put, the law of attraction says that you will attract into your life whatever you focus on. Whatever you give your energy and attention to will come back to you.

So, if you stay focused on the good and positive things in your life, you will automatically attract better and positive things into your life. If you are focused upon lack and negativity, then that is what will be attracted into your life. Good grades, health, wealth, personal relationships and success can come effortlessly with this law.

We are always in a state of creation. We are creating our reality in every moment of every day. We are creating our future with every single thought, be it consciously or subconsciously. You cannot take a break from it because you never stop thinking.

How do you use this law? Its simples always think about what you want, instead of what you don't want. Don't think about failing math, think about passing math and the universe will give it to you. A break down on how to use this law will be a topic for another article release.

Here are some of the world leaders and the greatest minds that used the law of attraction:

Buddha, a spiritual leader, teacher and arguably one of the most influential people that has ever lived on earth simply defines the law of attraction as "All that we are is a result of what we have thought."

"A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes," Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, an Indian activist who was the leader of the Indian independence movement against British colonial rule, is quoted as saying.

"Everything is energy and that's all there is to it. Match the frequency of the reality you want, and you cannot help but get that reality. It can't be no other way," said Albert Einstein.

20 Years of Zero Improvements

Tiffany Trahan
NSU Student



NSU graduate or thesis students thinking about tackling their workloads by renting a $10 study carrel in Watson Memorial Library should just stop thinking about it.

The study carrel system in Watson Memorial Library hasn't been updated in about 20 years and most of the records are kept on index cards.

When looking for a quiet place to work on my thesis, after getting no help from visiting both the front desk on the first floor and the reference desk on the second floor, I sought out to rent a study carrel from the office on the third floor. Ms. Michelle, the woman in charge, informed me that the only study carrels available were on the third floor.

Normally, this would not be a problem. However, considering that the third-floor closes at 5:30 P.M., renting a study carrel there would not be ideal for working late nights.

The study carrels on the second floor aren't available because they're completely rented out. Some of them aren't available because of missing keys, and some of them are rented to professors no long affiliated with the university.

Some of the study carrels are even rented out to professors currently working for the university but still remain un-used.

The study carrel system is there to benefit Northwestern State students, but I fail to see how a 20-years-outdated system stands to benefit anyone.

Dedicated to one goal: making it difficult to study.

Fork 'em.

Letter to the Editor

Holly Stave
Letter to the Editor

I want to commend Jacob Bennett on his outstanding opinion piece, "We are failing as a university." Bennett articulated the shortcomings of both the students and the faculty in a way that is not only fair, but accurate.

As a professor in the Scholars' College, I am spared from many of the kinds of students addresses, but I have taught outside of this College and I know their numbers are vast. Many students here are not invested in their own education and attempt to pass courses with as little effort as possible. Students of mine who have tutored have shown me the egregious writing some students have brought to the Learning Center, writing that should not have enabled students to enter high school, much less an institution of higher learning.

I have heard of students who do not even buy the textbooks for a class and who do none of the reading for the course, but yet pass the course. I have heard students claim they are entitled to a social life and resent having homework every night, an argument that is inherently senseless. I would assume when one attends university, one assumes one will have hours of homework every evening. Bennett's complaints about faculty are in many cases justified as well; however, faculty are reluctant to fail students because we are continually pressured to retain students to keep our enrollment numbers high.

Bennett is correct is saying that students should be assigned more 10-pages essays instead of 3-page essays, as well as given worksheets that require students to scour their textbooks to find the correct answers. However, faculty members who teach 100+ students per semester simply cannot do that much grading. I don't know what the solution to the problems are and it is easy for me to point the finger at students, but I do believe there is enough blame to go around. We need a much more rigorous curriculum.

Outside of Scholars', faculty need reasonable course loads, which means we need significantly more faculty members. We need to be willing to fail students who refuse to apply themselves or who are simply incapable of intellectual though. I am grateful to Mr. Bennett for opening this very vital topic for discussion.



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For more information, contact editor-in-chief Jacob Bennett.
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com



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Downtown Natchitoches offers Cane River cruises



Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Visitors to Natchitoches' downtown area can now rent a ride in the city's latest attraction, The Cane River Queen river boat.

Guests can choose between a one-hour matinee cruise or an hour-and-a-half cruise. The matinee is offered Friday to Sunday from 1 to 2 p.m. The hour-and-a-half cruise is offered Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Friday to Sunday from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

During the cruise, passengers will pass by a number of historic sights in Natchitoches including: the Beau Jardin water feature, Fort St. Jean Baptiste site, the Roque house and the home of the Steel Magnolias movie.

NSU students receive a $3 discount for adult cruise prices.

"I've seen the boat out and it's intriguing," Avery Tibbetts, NSU freshman, said. "I'd be excited to try it."

1 hour Matinee	1 1/2 hour Cruise
Friday: 1-2 P.M. Saturday: 1-2 P.M. Sunday: 1-2 P.M.	Saturday Morning: 10-11:30 A.M. Friday Evening: 6-7:30 P.M. Saturday Evening: 6-7:30 P.M. Sunday Evening: 6-7:30 P.M.
Adults: $15 Youth (13-17): $12 Children (5-12): $7 Under 4 and under: free With valid ID: $12 SENIORS 55+, Military, First Responders, College Students	Adults: $20 Youth (13-17): $17 Children (5-12): $12 Under 4 and under: free With valid ID: $17 SENIORS 55+, Military, First Responders, College Students

Aside from its weekly cruises, Cruise Managing Director Rhonda Boyette said the boat will also be available to rent for private events. The base price to rent the boat is $1250 for up to fifty people.

While food and beverages are available to purchase on every cruise, Boyette said catering and the bar will be available during the private charters as well.

Boyette said the city has been working since August to get the Cane River Queen ready. Its first official charter happened the first week of April.

The cruises are led by captain and owner Paul Lohr and can be booked at caneriverqueen.com.

Dickens earns Dunaway meritorious service medal



Dickens 50-year career includes teaching, mentoring HHP students. *Submitted Photo.*

Leah Jackson
Press Release

NATCHITOCHES – The Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) awarded Dr. Bill Dickens the Southern District Donna L. Dunaway Medal. The Medal is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a member by the SHAPE Southern District and recognizes individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions and given meritorious service to the Southern District over a significant period of time.

The medal was presented at the SHAPE National Convention in Tampa, Florida, April 11 Prior to Dickens, there have been only seven recipients of the award.

To qualify for the Donna L. Dunaway Medal, individuals must be a noteworthy leader and a significant contributor to the work of Southern District; have exemplified long term and meritorious service to Southern District for a minimum period of 15 years and be a person of high moral character whose contributions have emulated the spirit of service, dedication and the highest work ethic that the Dunaway Medal represents. Candidates are at least 45 years of age, must have been a member of Southern District for a minimum period of 15 years prior to being nominated for the award and reside in the Southern District at the time of the award.

Dickens has been an educator, scholar, researcher and coach for 52 years. He retired from Northwestern State University's Department of Health and Human Performance as Professor Emeritus in 2016 following years of service to the department, to NSU, to Southern District of SHAPE America, to the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (LAHPERD), which he served as executive director, and to the profession at large.

Dickens was on faculty at NSU for 28 years during which time he twice served as department head, as well as on numerous administrative committees. Dickens earned numerous honors from the Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (APHERD) during his career for his advancement of professions related to health and human performance.

Dickens has been involved in numerous youth, athletic, civic and service organizations. Among his many other noteworthy services, he was the manager of the American Red Cross Disaster Shelter set up in NSU's Health and Human Performance Building that housed more than 1,200 evacuees for several weeks following Hurricane Katrina.

Dickens' colleagues laud him as an encourager, a scholar and a teacher passionate about the field of physical education.

Following his retirement, Dickens has remained involved at NSU as an adjunct instructor, teaching classes that prepare students in Health and Human Performance for their next step as they pursue careers as teachers, physical therapists, wellness specialists, coaches and other health specialties.

New Media Student Showcase honors students at reception

Samantha Clark
Copy Editor

Several students received recognition at the second annual New Media Student Showcase reception Wednesday afternoon. This exhibit includes DSLR and cell phone photographs from communications students and alumni.

Awards for top three in DSLR, top three in cell phone photography, Best in Show and People's Choice were awarded at this reception.

Chase Slater, senior communications major and first-time participant, won first place in the cell phone category and third place in the DSLR category.

Out of Slater's twelve accepted works, "Starry Night" is his favorite.

"You can see stuff with a camera you can't see with your eyes," Slater said. "That one's my favorite just because there's a whole different world that you haven't been able to experience, and I get to do that with a photo."

Showcase newcomer Katie Baronne won Best in Show after being encouraged by Dr. Ron McBride to submit her photo "Natural Beauty" into the showcase.

"My final assignment for photojournalism was a photo essay, and it had to show a process," Baronne said. "I took some pictures of my friend [Jordan Young] putting on her makeup, and it was my favorite one that I took."





Left, student awards are announced at the reception. *Graphic by Samantha Clark.* **Right, students pose together for a picture after awards are announced.** *Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa.*

Dhaija Smith's "Broken Reality" took home the People's Choice Award. Smith said her goal in her creative process is to take an angle different from any other work in the showcase.

"Broken Reality" depicted sophomore theatre major Shari Wilson with a lamp shade over her face.

"There's no other piece in this exhibit like that," Wilson said. "It's so different, and people want different."

After planning out growth point goals for this year's showcase, Emily Zering, showcase coordinator, said that she witnessed many of these goals being achieved. Now she can work with communications professor and showcase coordinator Dr. Ron McBride to produce growth points for next year.

The New Media Student Showcase was recognized by university leaders such as Chris Maggio, university president, and Greg Handel, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts.

"It's very evident what is happening with this program," Maggio said in his opening remarks. "On behalf of some of the leadership at this university, we thank you for this showcase. We thank you for what you're doing, and the future is certainly bright in this program."

The exhibit will be displayed in Orville Hanchey Gallery until April 28. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Stay Current

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Quote of the Week

"You can't get much done in life if you only work on the days you feel good."

Jerry West

2 **Arts & Living:** Senior Dance Concert to be held May 4

3 **Viewpoints:** College students need credit cards

4 **Sports:** NSU hosts SLC track and field championship

Senior Dance Concert to be held May 4

David West
Director of Communications



The concert will feature original pieces by senior dance students Taylor Young of River Ridge, Katherine Langlois of Greenwell Springs, Asher Van Meter and Jayzen Boger of Edmond, Oklahoma, and Brandi M. Corkern of Hammond. *Submitted photo.*

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University Theatre and Dance will present its annual Senior Dance Concert on Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. Original pieces by senior dance students Taylor Young of River Ridge, Katherine Langlois of Greenwell Springs, Asher Van Meter and Jayzen Boger of Edmond, Oklahoma, and Brandi M. Corkern of Hammond will be presented.

Young's work, "With Love for Fitzgerald," will allow the audience to watch a fun story of three burlesque dancers from the 1920s "fighting" for the spotlight at the local cigar lounge. Young said the roaring twenties kicked off a strong girl power movement and this piece shows that and much more.

"We see the drama, the love and the funny in-betweens from the dancers as they perform a technical, sassy and jazzy burlesque number," said Young. "F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of my favorite authors, as well as him be such an icon of the twenties, he is someone that the women were absolutely obsessed with. Ladies wanted to be with him, men wanted to be him. The same thing happened with his wife. And with that came the title of the piece."

Langlois says her piece, "sognare" is a contemporary piece "that will send the audience through the experience of living one's own personal dream." She said the concept revolves around falling into a full night's sleep but waking up within the dream and living it out.

"What happens in these individual dreams is completely up for interpretation and is expressed through the individualism between the five dancers," said Langlois. "Also, the two pieces of music I chose show a distinct representation of when the dancers are in the dream world versus when they wake up and are back in reality. The moments of reality in the piece are indicated by excerpts of a speech from the widely known psychological speaker, Alan Watts. I have always loved his messages and I am extremely eager to have created something of my own, using ideas from his work."

"Patience" by Van Meter is a coming-of-age story for a man who is learning and growing through his relationships.

"It deals with feelings of youthfulness and naivety with a first love and hopelessness and abuse as he explores what he wants from other people," said Van Meter. "He finds himself dealing with loneliness and a longing for someone else, but they keep pulling him away from who he is. It's his journey to finding himself and eventually someone who will embrace who he truly is."

Boger's "rosette" is a contemporary modern piece created with the intent of vibrating the audiences' auditory and visual senses, in an attempt to unlock a stir of emotions that with resonate within the viewers mind and body.

"I was 11 feet up in the air one rainy evening, sitting out on a balcony and practicing the acoustic guitar, when a poignant question planted itself into my mind. "How is it that playing this instrument can not only produce a multitude of sounds, but depending on the music, can trigger a plethora of emotions all within one movement,?" said Boger. "This energized my creative mind with the hope of translating this fresh idea onto the stage with movement and dance in a theatrical setting."

"Bisou" by Corkern is a contemporary jazz dance that focuses on the glimpses of the people's lives that one would see passing on the street.

"My inspiration for this piece came from people watching on the streets of New Orleans," said Corkern. "You never know what the stranger next to you is going through. You only get to see them for a brief moment as they pass you, but everyone has a story that is unique to them. I try to touch on these stories within my dance."

The concert will also feature three dances that were presented earlier this year at the American College Dance Association festival held at Kennesaw State University, "Flirting with Light" by faculty member Crystal Lewis, "Creature of the Night" by freshman Mary Strickland, of New Orleans and "Comm/itment" by Van Meter.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Friday, April 26 - Thursday, May 2
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Avengers: Endgame (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 12:30 3:00 7:00
Monday- Thursday: 3:00 7:00

Avengers: Endgame 3D (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:00 4:45 8:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:45 8:30

The Curse of La Llorona (R)
Friday- Sunday: 12:45 4:20 7:10 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:20 7:10 9:30

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Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!

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What do you think of the name "The Current Sauce?"



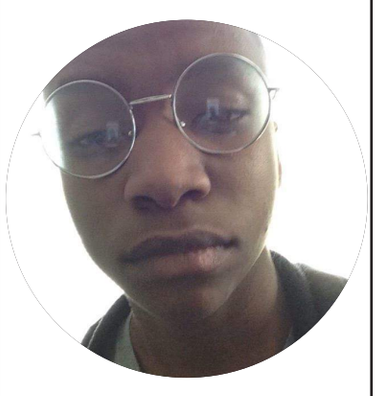
"I think it's ok. I would prefer if it was more "demon" or "NSU" related. Cause The Current Sauce doesn't sound like a newspaper to me, it sounds more like a food blog to me."

Syroi Webb
Music/Business Major



"I think it's cool! You know how we say, "What's the scoop?" The Current Sauce makes sense to still have that name. It's the "Current Sauce", the current stuff that's going on. You guys on the newspaper still made it relevant for us with the name. It's a bit silly to say, but I think it's a pretty "hip" name."

Bethany Lee
Theatre Major



"First off, it sounds kind of outdated now. Cause probably a student made it back when. Maybe change it to something more trending, or that all students can appeal to cause most students aren't really adults. Someone can probably come up with a better name than I could, but I think something more school oriented can work."

Christopher Johnson
Engineering Major

Demon Debates

Should cell phones be allowed in the classroom?

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

Cell phones can have a harmful impact on productivity in the classroom. Let's be real; technology is distracting. Call me old-fashioned, but I will always prefer paper and pencil over anything. It helps your memory and keeps you a little more focused. When people lock their eyes down on a bright screen, the professor gets annoyed, wastes class time calling them out and sidetracks other students.

Valuable class time is wasted. The teacher lectures the students on how harmful technology is, and now everybody's having a bad time. A professor has the power to ban cell phones from being used in class, but many don't for emergencies. Then there are some who believe they are treating students like adults by trusting them to not get distracted. However, taking notes on a cell phone could look like cheating and get a person in trouble.

Unlimited access to the internet is theoretically helpful for students to find information, but the truth is that students use their phones to amuse themselves. Michigan State University did a study and found that students are spending up to one-third of class time distracted from their cell phones. This not only could cause their grade to drop but their memory could start to fall short as well. Professors banning cellphones could increase student participation and class discussions. Cell phones weaken classroom experience more than they add to the learning process.

If a student has an emergency, then by all means, step outside. The professors are human and they understand if someone needs to make a quick phone call. If you have a job or someone important that contacts you in class you shouldn't have to worry about getting back to them in a timely manner because they should already know you're in school. Teachers aren't forcing you to come to class (although it may feel like it).

Sure, students can type up key words and tell themselves they will write it out later. They think they will remember to, but that doesn't happen. They can't remember what the professor was saying because they were too busy convincing themselves that they would be alright later. Thus, the cycle begins all over again.

Cell phones shouldn't be used in class because it's not beneficial. Paper and a pencil work just fine and, in almost every case, it's better

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

Cell phones should totes be allowed in the classroom

I lead Current Sauce staff meetings every Friday, so I thoroughly understand the frustration of talking, seeing somebody on their phone and then feeling like they're not listening. (That's right, I see y'all.)

But I've concluded that cell phone usage in class is a necessary evil. Let me explain.

It is incredibly frustrating for class to be mandatory when the teacher barely does any actual teaching, a trend at NSU I wrote about recently. Why should I, the one paying for the service of education in the first place, be required to put my phone up while the professor rambles about their personal lives or other such nonsense? If you're taking my money and giving me poor schooling in return, I find that to be disrespectful.

Obviously, not every teacher does this. But when I am being forced to let a teacher waste my time while I have more important tasks to do, I often take out my iPhone and at least try to get things done.

There are days when taking out my phone to text in class is a necessity, and I do mean necessity. As the Editor-in-Chief of The Current Sauce, there's no telling when somebody will need my help locating a source, answering an AP style question, resolving an issue with workflow or planning an event.

Some things simply cannot wait until after class. By then, for example, the person on the other end of the phone may have a class to go to, and the whole project gets delayed even further.

As a senior, I am also planning for life after graduation. While this may seem less pressing, there have been times this semester where I had to be in touch with a potential employer over text or email during class. I'm not going to make these people wait an hour and a half for class to end; I'm just not.

These are just my experiences, but we as a university have to empathize with every student's extra responsibilities. Some babysit for their family. Others work several complex jobs so they can afford to be here in the first place. The truth is, you never know when you're going to need your phone.

Yes, there is the risk that students will scroll through social media instead of paying attention to the course material. Oftentimes, a teacher's future at NSU partially rests on his or her students' grades, so there is a strong incentive to make sure they are paying attention. I get it.

All I'm saying is that banning in-class phone usage outright isn't the answer. Cell phones are a part of everyone's lives now, and the traditional classroom must adjust accordingly.

Bearing Burdens

Darius Ardoin
BCM Blog Post



Photo courtesy of https://www.nsulabcm.com.

When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. [As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.] -Matthew 27:31-32

We don't talk much about Simon from Cyrene (Not Peter). Being that he's briefly mentioned in the middle of Jesus' undeserved torment, he's easy to overlook. However, God has shown me that there is something to learn and apply from what Simon from Cyrene was forced to go through.

Galatians 6:2 tell us to [Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ].

If I'm being brutally honest, sometimes, I'm not good at bearing the burdens of those around me. Is it my lack of sensitivity to the struggle of those around me because I'm so caught up in my daily routine? Is it my selfishness, choosing my comfort over the discomfort that comes with bearing someone else's burden? Is it my assumption that although it looks bad, they will be all right? Sadly, the answer is," D, all of the above." Upon conviction, my first excuse was, "But God, I encourage. I love doing that?" His response was, "When did words suddenly become enough?" 1 John 3:18 tells us to not love with words and speech, but in action and in truth. The Holy Spirit really convicted me with this. He lead me to examine the actions of Simon from Cyrene.

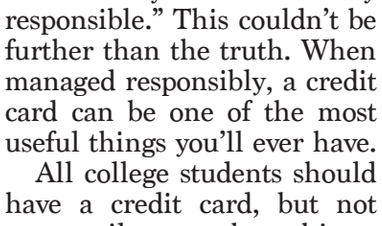
Simon had nothing to do with Jesus' so called crimes. He was just another bystander watching as Jesus carried the cross to Calvary. Yet, he was forced to help Jesus carry the cross. He wasn't sent to simply motivate and encourage. "Jesus, you can do it!" "Jesus, I know it's hard, but you'll get through it." "Jesus, it'll be okay!" No! He was there to wrap one arm around Jesus in the midst of his agony, to wrap the other around the cross to bear, and to walk with Jesus to Calvary. He was there to help bear Jesus' heavy load.

Think about the bleeding and bruises from the whips that accidentally hit him. Think about the shame that came with carrying a cursed tree with an alleged lunatic and accused criminal. Think about the sweat from the toil... This isn't something he voluntarily endured. I'm sure he was comfortable just being a bystander. I'm sure he didn't wake up expecting this to be a part of his day. Oh how this must have disrupted his daily routine.

I can relate to how Simon must have felt. That's why God brought it up to me, so I could see myself in the Scripture. Can you see yourself in the Scripture? Do you feel the conviction from the spirit? If you haven't been living like Simon, you should. Where Simon differs from you and I is no one will force us to bear the burdens of those around us. God, though he's called, will never force us to love in this way. We must choose to obey his calling.

As the church we are called away from our comfort, selfishness, and assumptions. We are called away from watching as bystanders into enduring as Simon. We are called to support as we see others journeying to fulfill the calling that God has placed on their life and to be a part of their journey. We are called to endure their hardships alongside of them. Yes, use words of encouragement, but don't stop there! Love with action! Literally bear their burdens with them! In this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

College students need credit cards



Thomas Celles
NSU Student

At some point during your life, you've heard people complain about how credit cards are awful and credit card debt ruins people's lives. Many parents tell this to their kids when they go off to college and the lesson sticks. A 2016 study by US News discovered that only 50% of college students have credit cards (though almost 90 percent have debit cards), mostly because they believe that credit card debt is bad and or that not having a credit card means you're "financially responsible." This couldn't be further than the truth. When managed responsibly, a credit card can be one of the most useful things you'll ever have.

All college students should have a credit card, but not necessarily to purchase things. Owning a credit card starts building your credit history, which is vital if you ever want to buy things like a car or a house after graduation. Sometimes even renting or obtaining insurance requires an established credit history. I learned this first hand when I went to purchase my first car and was informed that I didn't have the credit history to sign by myself. Despite having a credit card for over a year and a half at that point and having solid credit for my age, it still wasn't long enough for a car loan. I had to get a family member to cosign in order to purchase the car and didn't get the interest rate I was hoping for. The problem is even worse when a first-time car—or home—buyer has no history at all.

Even though having a credit card is important, picking the right one can be challenging. As soon as you turn 18, you're swamped with credit card offers in the mail, online, and on social media. So, which one do you choose? Most cards are out of reach for students, who usually don't have any credit history. My personal choice, after a lot of research, was the Discover it® Student Cash Back Card and I'd recommend it to any student who has never had a credit card before. It requires no credit history, 0% interest for the first six months, and is really forgiving in case you slip up and forget to pay in your first couple months. Check out more options at www.nerdwallet.com/best/credit-cards/college-student.

Credit is one of the pillars of modern society. It plays a very important role in all of our lives. Yes, excess personal debt isn't ideal and can lead to low credit scores and high interest payments, but our financial system was designed to work with debt in mind. If you ever want to buy a car, a house, or any other big purchase without slapping a briefcase full of cash down on the table at closing, you're going to need some credit history—and a credit card is the easiest and most effective way to get started.

GAME SCHEDULE

Softball

4/24/19 6:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Grambling

4/26/19 1:00 p.m.
@Nacogdoches, TX
vs. Stephen F. Austin

4/26/19 3:00 p.m.
@Nacogdoches, TX
vs. Stephen F. Austin

3/26/19 3:00 p.m.
@ Grambling, LA
vs. Grambling

4/27/19 12:00 p.m.
@Nacogdoches, TX
vs. Stephen F. Austin

Tennis

4/25/19
@Corpus Christi, TX
vs. Southland Conference

4/26/19 11:00 a.m.
@Corpus Christi, TX
vs. Southland Conference

4/27/19
@Corpus Christi, TX
vs. Southland Conference

Baseball

4/23/19 6:30 p.m.
@Fayetteville, AR
vs. #6/8 Arkansas

4/24/19 3:00 p.m.
@Fayetteville, AR
vs. #6/8 Arkansas

4/26/19 6:30 p.m.
@Nacogdoches, TX
vs. Stephen F. Austin

3/27/19 6:00 p.m.
@Baton Rouge, LA
vs. Southern

4/27/19 12:30 p.m.
@Nacogdoches, TX
vs. Stephen F. Austin

4/28/19 1:00 p.m.
@Nacogdoches, TX
vs. Stephen F. Austin

Frank and Darbonne break school records, Larkins improves national standing at LSU Alumni Gold

Chris Little
NSU Sports Information


Photo by Chris Reich.

BATON ROUGE -- The Northwestern State track and field teams closed the regular season schedule on a very high note Saturday with Kelsey Frank breaking a 20-year-old school record in the javelin and Reagan Darbonne raising her own school record, as NSU claimed three gold medals and eight podium finishes at the LSU Alumni Gold meet in Bernie Moore Track Stadium.

Frank, a senior, won the javelin with a heave of 168-5, erasing the 166-9 school record held by All-American Regina Roe since 1999. The Oberlin native, who had pushed her personal best to 163-5 last Friday at the Leon Johnson NSU Invitational, moved into the nation's top 20 this season as she threw nearly 14 feet past the second-place finisher Saturday, Florida's Megan Reed.

Senior two-time All-American sprinter Micah Larkins also impressed with a win in the section A 100 meter dash finals, tying the nation's fourth-best time of 10.10 (with a 2.8 mph wind). The Haughton High School product beat out six professional runners in his victory, clocking the second-fastest time of his career behind a wind-aided 10.02 last year at the Texas Relays. It's the fifth-fastest 100 ever by a Demon, with the wind (over 2.0 mph) denying him the chance to lower the school record of 10.12 he shares with Justin Walker.

Sophomore Markeit Steverson Jr. claimed his first gold of the outdoor season in the men's long jump with a leap of 23-11.

Darbonne, a sophomore, raised the Lady Demon pole vault standard in consecutive weeks. The Hackberry native broke the school record at the Leon Johnson NSU Invitational with a height of 13-2 ½ before besting that at 13-3 ½ to claim second Saturday.

Head track and field coach and throws coach Mike Heimerman, who coaches NSU's throwers, was especially pleased with his javelin star, redshirted last year after winning the 2017 Southland Conference title.

"Kelsey threw great. Anytime you can break a record that's that old, it's an awesome feeling," said Heimerman. "I think she can still improve her distance even more."

Junior Natashia Jackson picked up a silver in the women's section B 200 with a time of 23.94 (4.2 mph) in a field of 38 competitors, falling just short of Texas A&M Commerce's Eboni Coby (23.78, 2.7 mph).

German transfer Yannik Gerland improved from this past weekend's performance with a third-place finish in the men's 3000 steeplechase, setting a personal-best 9:26.39.

Freshman Slavoski Wright also picked up a bronze in the 800 with a career-best 1:52.78 among 30 competitors.

NCAA Indoor long jump champion Jasmyn Steels was in action in the women's invitational division where she finished third overall and second among college athletes with a jump of 20-8 ½. Kenyattia Hackworth (unattached) was first overall at 21-8 while Yanis David (Florida) took second at 21-0.

Junior Brooke Petkovich took fourth in two events. In the morning, the Kenner native jumped 18-5 in the long jump before producing a 38-10 ½ in the triple jump later in the afternoon.

"It was a great meet overall. Micah and Speedy (Jackson) led the way, our jumpers always do good too," said Heimerman. "Today shows that we can compete with the best in the SEC, ACC, and so on. Our kids are ready for conference and we're excited to put on a good show."

NSU takes a week off before hosting the 2019 Southland Conference Outdoor Championships May 3-5 at the Walter P. Ledet Track Complex.

NSU hosts SLC Track and Field Championship

Brianna Corley
Contributing Writer

The SLC Outdoor Track and Field Championship is an event that NSU's track athletes have participated in on countless occasions, but this May will serve as the first time in eight years that NSU will host this coveted competition.

The SLC Outdoor Track and Field Championship will begin at the Walter P. Ledet Track and Field Complex on May 3 and end May 5.

"It's a big deal for NSU athletics to showcase our university, our facilities and our institutions as one of the 13 schools in the southland conference," stated Mike Heimerman, track and field head coach.

Heimerman also noted the major role the conference will play in terms of general economic impact on the Natchitoches community, anticipating 700 to 1,000 people throughout the duration of the event to fill local hotels and restaurants to the brim with business.

One struggle hosting the conference presents is getting officials in Natchitoches since it's the same weekend as the state Louisiana High School Championships.

"A lot of the same officials we use are going to be in Baton Rouge for those championships, and a lot of other meets are happening on top of that," Heimerman said. "We've had to reach out farther than we'd like to bring out some quality officials for our week."

With the upcoming conference being held on their home turf, Demon track and field athletes are ecstatic and ambitious for how the competition will unfold.

"It's our home turf and we're going to protect it, that's what's going to push us to go even harder," said JaCorious Jeter, senior jumper.

"I feel like we're going to have a better fanbase. They're going to be rooting for us because we're they're people so we're all going to be really on go," Lauren Clarke, freshman jumper, said.

Hinds' Washington becomes Lady Demons' first spring signee

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director

NATCHITOCHES – The Northwestern State women's basketball team tipped of the spring signing time frame by adding Hinds Community College forward Nakaylis Washington.

A 5-foot-9 McComb, Mississippi, product, Washington averaged 9 points and 5.3 rebounds for the Bulldogs, starting all 21 games in which she appeared.

Washington reached double figures in scoring in seven games in her sophomore season, highlighted by an 18-point performance in a loss to Baton Rouge Community College. Washington knocked down 7 of 8 shots in that game and grabbed a season-best nine rebounds.

In her freshman season, Washington flashed her scoring potential with a pair of 10-point games and started nine of her 24 appearances as the Bulldogs went 16-9. An active rebounder, Washington corralled an average of 4.3 rebounds per game.

"Nakaylis is a versatile player who can play and score in different positions on the floor," said head coach Jordan Dupuy, who enters his fourth season at the helm of the Lady Demons. "She will allow us to play the up-tempo style we want to play. She and her family are great fits for our program both on and off the floor. We are excited to have her."

At South Pike High School in Magnolia, Mississippi, Washington averaged 13.7 points per game as a senior, helping lead the Panthers to the state playoffs. She also was the district champion in the long jump with a leap of 16-2.

Washington, who aspires to be a physical therapist and plans to major in health and exercise science, credited the atmosphere around the university and the program as reasons for signing with NSU.

"I chose NSU because I like how they are going to always make sure I'm doing well, not just athletically but academically as well," she said. "I also can see myself fitting into the basketball program just fine. Lastly, I just love the atmosphere and positive energy of the school."

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Esports venue confirmed for Friedman Student Union



Photo by Victoria Perkins.

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

Northwestern State University is utilizing the old book store space in the student union to build an esports/lounge which is set to open in the fall of 2019.

Ron Wright, chief information officer at NSU and head of the esports project said The esports area is only one part of a larger effort to revitalize the union space in support of the overall student experience.

"We are currently finalizing plans for the space and expect it will open during the fall 2019 semester," he said.

The new NSU esports Venue will provide a space for both recreational and competitive game players to gather and play in a social setting.

There will be areas dedicated to PC games, Xbox, PlayStation, and Switch. Students can bring their own devices said Wright. There will be plenty of seating areas for students watching others compete or play.

"For those that might not really be into gaming but need a space to sit and surf the web on your laptop or tablet you can do that too," Wright said.

There will be a competition stage on one end of the room designed to support what is expected to be an "active, student-driven presence in the collegiate esports community." Wright said.

Dr. Eddie Horton, an assistant professor in the school of business and Technology said collegiate esports is a very fast growing field, because of this the "esports suite" is a great addition to the University.

"It will give our students a spot to go hang out, learn/play some different games, and hopefully one day become a competitive team," he said,

Hassik M. Vasquez Narvaez is a frequent online gamer on campus. He is excited and cannot wait for this new addition. "I can't wait to start competing and winning," he said.

The new project will also provide opportunities for students to gain real work experience.

The facility will include equipment to live stream events creating opportunities for new media and sports journalism students to practice their skills both in front of and behind the camera.

Say 'hi' to your new student media leaders



Photo by Brianna Fife.

Leanna Coy
Reporter

Editor's note: The leaders of the individual student media teams are appointed by SGA, following a nomination by the Student Media Board, to a year long term.

Samantha Clark, junior, is the editor-in-chief of The Current Sauce. Clark has been involved with student media since the spring of her freshman year. In her time with student media, Clark has held the position of: social media manager, contributing writer and copy editor.

"The more I did it, I really liked it," Clark said. "I really did meet my good friends through this."

Allie Atkinson, sophomore, is the editor-in-chief of Argus Literary and Art Magazine. Atkinson has been on the Argus staff for two years and previously worked as a junior editor and associate editor.

Atkinson said she likes how, through student media, NSU students have a variety of platforms to vocalize their thoughts and opinions.

Cinnamon Player, senior, is KNWD's new general manager. Player joined KNWD as an intern her freshman year. Since then, she has served as the audio productions director for a total of five semesters.

Player will graduate fall 2019 and will not complete her full term as managing editor.

Megan Palmer, senior, is returning for her second year as editor-in-chief of The Potpourri. Before she was editor-in-chief, Palmer said she worked as an intern, writer and designer for The Potpourri.

"I have worked with yearbooks since my sophomore year in high school, so it wasn't a hard decision to join the NSU student media yearbook branch," she said.

Palmer said she thinks everyone should experience being a part of student media in their college career. "It is an amazing feeling to be a part of something bigger than yourself!" she said.

Communications department head Paula Furr set to retire



Dr. Paula Furr smiles for a photo with junior Samantha Clark. *Submitted Photo.*

Maina Ibn-Mohammed
Reporter

Dr. Paula Furr, professor and department head of News Media, Journalism and Communication Arts is retiring at the age of 67.

Furr came to NSU in 1999 after she retired from the military. She was a journalist in public affairs working with the newspapers and radio. Her last assignment was at West Point, where she taught for six years.

"I went through the transition of women going into the regular army," Furr said.

She said being in the army taught her how to be unafraid and how to articulate clearly.

She retired and came back to her home state, Louisiana, where she was born. At first, she was going to be a stay-at-home mom because she had a child in kindergarten, "but for one reason or another I was just led back to teaching," she said.

Furr was hired at NSU in the Department of Journalism. In 2007, the state and the university were going through dramatic budget cuts. Journalism was among one of 25 programs that NSU eliminated at that time, something Furr described as "very painful."

However, she continues to work with student media and in a short period with a lot of effort Furr said: "We were fortunate that we were able to bring News Media journalism back."

"So, I guess I've held on all these years because I just had a firm belief that we will once again have media and journalism back at Northwestern."

After all the hard work for two decades, Furr said thank you to all the faculty and thank you to the students. "Without students, we would not be here. So, first of all, thank you for choosing Northwestern for those who are in communication or those of you who work with student media, thank you for doing that," she said.

"I have enjoyed my time at Northwestern immensely and I have really enjoyed the students."

"I think the students help keep you young. It's always interesting every semester I go into a class. I am learning along with the students," Furr said.

"I'm happy for her and sad to see her go," said senior communications major Matthew Giering. "She's been an inspiration to me and been very generous."

Jennifer Doiron is a sophomore and a communications major. She said all her encounters with Furr has been pleasant and she will miss her.

"Dr. Furr has always answered my emails and questions soon after I sent them to her and helped me out promptly. I think that is something to be appreciated and celebrated," Doiron said.

Professor Emeritus, Thomas Whitehead, said he has known Furr since she came to the faculty at NSU and he thinks NSU has been fortunate to have a "truly multi-talented person" and NSU is thankful for her to the development of the journalism program.

"She has a broad background. It's rear we have someone here with this much experience. We will all miss her," Whitehead said.

Furr has a newborn grandson, so she will be spending time with her family and traveling with her husband.

Stay Current

@thecurrentsauce

Quote of the Week

"It's time to start something new, be something new, create something new."

Bonny Shade

2 **Arts & Living:** Resident Evil 2: A remake worth revisiting the R.P.D.

3 **Viewpoints:** Letter from the Editor: A goodbye

4 **Sports:** Ishmael Lane reflects on past, looks to future

Resident Evil 2: A remake worth revisiting the R.P.D.



Photo from Flickr.

Anthony Renteria
Reporter

Remakes tend to be a hit or miss in the entertainment world. While movie remakes tend to try and hit the same story beats as the former title, video game remakes also must take into consideration in how players will react to changes in how the title plays. Recently, Capcom released a ground up remake of one of their most renowned horror games of all time, "Resident Evil 2." The game shows that survival horror can still inflict fear upon players in 2019.

Gamers have two characters to choose from. Leon S. Kennedy, a rookie cop that has a shocking first day on the job and Claire Redfield, whom is looking for her lost brother. In both campaigns you will visit the same areas but experience different events depending on who you choose. Despite the differences, your goal remains the same: escape Raccoon City alive.

The remake ditches the fixed camera angles, pre-rendered backgrounds and tank controls that were present in the 1998 title, and goes for a modern control style similar to that of the fourth entry.

You can pinpoint exactly where you want to shoot monsters; find new ways to avoid danger; and change your inventory much faster.

While exploring Raccoon City, you have to find a way out by solving puzzles while avoiding zombies and other creatures that were created by the Umbrella Corporation.

New to the remake is the use of life-like graphics with the RE Engine. Every pre-rendered environment from the 1998 game was remade from the ground up and can be interacted with in real time with no load times. Blood and gore are taken to a frighteningly realistic and grotesque level that even I was taken aback by.

While there is still some charm from playing the original version, the 2019 game is a title that horror fans should not pass by. It is enough to satisfy old fans, invite new ones, and brings survival horror back to its proper residence.

PARKWAY CINEMA Movie Times

Friday, May 3 - Thursday, May 9
3D Shows: +$2 per ticket

Avengers: Endgame (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 12:30 3:00 7:00
Monday- Thursday: 3:00 7:00

Avengers: Endgame 3D (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 1:10 4:50 8:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:50 8:30

The Intruder (PG-13)
Friday- Sunday: 12:50 4:15 7:15 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:15 7:15 9:30

Long Shots (R)
Friday- Sunday: 1:10 3:50 6:45 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 3:50 6:45 9:20

Uglydolls (PG)
Friday- Sunday: 1:30 4:10 7:15 9:30
Monday- Thursday: 4:10 7:15 9:30

Breakthrough (PG
Friday- Sunday: 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:20
Monday- Thursday: 4:00 6:50 9:20

Tuesday Tickets only $5 all day!
Any other night $1 off with current NSU ID!

(318) 352-5109
Box Office Opens 30 Mins Before First Show
1011 Keyser Ave.
www.acadianacinemas.com

Ask Vic

Q Hey Vic, the semester is over, what now?

A Hey guys, so my end of the year tips/ challenges include:
1. If you're struggling in the classroom, do not hesitate to speak with the professor. It's never too late, and it's better to make your issues known before finals.
2. For those graduating, take this time to enjoy the last few days of undergrad because the real world hits you faster than a Thanos snap.
3. For those who aren't struggling with finals, help out others, chill by the pool, throw an epic party (responsibly of course), kiss that person, do all the stuff you couldn't do while you were over achieving this semester.
4. To the professors, ask yourself WWVD (what would Vic do)? Vic would give bonus opportunities, that's what he would do.
5. All in all, it's not how you start, it's how you finish, so I encourage you all to finish strong, and as always, fork 'em demons!

Have a question for Vic? Hit us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email!

@thecurrentsauce
thecurrentsauce@gmail.com

Jacob Ellis swears into second term as SGA president



Dr. Maggio swears Jacob Ellis in for his second term. *Photo submitted by Jacob Ellis.*

Samantha Clark
Copy Editor

NSU junior Jacob Ellis was sworn into his second term as student body president on Monday at the annual SGA banquet.

Under his first term, SGA achieved many accomplishments including: organizing a clean-up drive for hurricane relief, hosting Leadership NSU, executing the Iberville Green Stage Project and creating a way for students to be involved in university hiring process through student bills.

Since Ellis already has a year of experience, he plans to look into the future and finish what he started.

"It reminds me of why I ran for SGA president a year ago," Ellis said. "I want to make a difference in the lives of students. I believe in the students of today. I believe that our students are the future."

Ellis is entering his senior-year term with one main goal in mind: To leave a legacy for himself and pave the road to success for other students.

2019 Senator of the Year Virginia Falgoust thinks that Ellis will leave a great legacy at NSU.

"I think Jacob's legacy will be always putting the students' needs first," Falgoust said "He's always making sure that any decision made is in the best interest of the students and NSU. He genuinely cares about the well-being of his fellow Demons."

Nick Hopkins, sophomore business administration major and Speaker of the Senate, is looking forward to working with Ellis and other cabinet members for the 2019-2020 school year.

"I know Jacob will continue to strive to advance student interests and advocate for all Demons," Hopkins said. "Jacob is someone who truly cares about Northwestern State and all students."

Ellis, a 21-year-old business administration major, swore in at 6 p.m. on Monday in the Student Union Ballroom with outgoing and incoming senators, university vice presidents and his parents among the crowd.

Ellis' office is located on the first floor of the Friedman Student Union. He can be reached at 318-357-4335, his office number, 318-532-1229, his cell number, or by email at jellis067345@nsula.edu

Eyes of Argus

Twenty-One Seas

Matthew Mims
NSU Student

Your rhinestone eyes
are like factories in the
distance.
Immortal portals to our
children's future that
shut out only when
Hypnos goes about his
business.
My heart waves in
knots and coasts for a
beacon.
Nautical remedies leave
me senseless.
Nonetheless I find
my way to you only
by sheer will and
intuition.
My starship, take me
up and don't be late.
Let's rendezvous where
the lighthouse kisses
the moon and swoons
its eyes across the bay.
Twenty-one to the day,
Live a pirate's life I
pray we may.
Map out the treasures
of your chest in one
month but a lifetime
awaits;
Thought I was lost at
sea but the ocean is
your face.

Editor's note: Eyes of Argus takes a look back at classic poems by NSU students, published in the university's literary magazine "Argus." For more information, contact Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu.

Letter from the Editor: A goodbye

Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief



Editor-in-Chief Jacob Bennett sips his favorite beverage. *Submitted photo.*

A couple weeks ago, I wrote an editorial critiquing Northwestern State University and discussing a few ways I feel we could be doing better. However, I'm a graduating senior, and I want to end the year on a positive note. So, I figured I'd talk a little bit about all this school has done for me during my four years here.

When I first came to NSU in the fall of 2015, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, and I wasn't too concerned with finding out. Being away from my parents for the first time in my life, my newfound freedom was more or less my only priority.

Instead of living in the dorms, I found a way to live off-campus with some friends from high school and some of their friends. Freshman year had a lot of ups and downs, but when I think of the times in that house, I smile.

One of the best friends I've made in college was a fellow by the name of Jamarius Williams, who I met and lived with freshman year. The presidential election, as well as Black Lives Matter protests, were heating up around that time, and J-Mar was able to show me to a whole new way of looking at the world that I had never been exposed to before. It's really because of those initial conversations with him that I found my passion in life: politics. I don't even know if he knows that.

During sophomore year, J-Mar and I began hanging out with a group of ladies who lived in a trailer together: Liz, Lindsay, and sisters Brooke and Tori. Liz's boyfriend at the time, Jordan, soon joined the clique as well, and we began calling ourselves the Paper House Crew (which is a story for another time). As far as I'm concerned, every single one of them is family, and I love them dearly. You mess with one, you mess with all.

By this time, I had moved in with two great guys, Alex Butler, and Chase Slater, who I had met through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Sophomore year was a big turning point for me in my faith, and Alex and Chase were a big part of that. They challenged me and helped me grow as a Christian, and were there for me through some hard times. I still go to Chase for religious guidance, and I suspect that will continue.

Switching my major to Communications turned out to be a really good decision. I've met so many people within this department whose help has been invaluable. People like Thomas Whitehead, Raymond Strother, Paula Furr, Emily Zering and Kenneth Burns have all gone out of their way to help me out when they didn't have to. They will always have a special place in my heart.

This past year, I've served as Editor-in-Chief of The Current Sauce and made some damn good memories along the way. I really believe in our staff and am proud of what we've been able to accomplish. To my editorial board, thanks for making Kyser 227 a fun place to work. Samantha Clark, who is taking over as editor and is a great friend, is sure to take this paper to new heights.

Maina Ibn-Mohammed, who started out as a contributing writer but soon became one of our best reporters, has become a really good friend as well. This guy never fails to make your day better. He's one of the most positive and Christ-like people I've ever had the pleasure to meet.

I want to give a special shout-out to Reagan Escude and Kierstin Richter. Reagan and Kierstin are kind but kickass, and two of the best friends I've made during my time here. They're also nothing but trouble. You might want to stay away from them.

You can't ask for a better friend than my fellow Avocado-at-Law Anson Ballow. I defy you to find someone more fun to goof off or argue with. I am very grateful for this Belle Chase native who has become like a brother to me.

I want to end this piece by thanking my mom and dad. I couldn't have made it this far without y'all's constant support. I love and look up to both of you more than you know.

The truth is, no matter how much trash I talk about NSU, I love it. It has helped me to realize who I am, and the people here have enriched my life in so many ways. I am one lucky dude.

This senator's signing out



NSU President Chris Maggio and Trinity Velazquez smile for a photo. *Submitted photo.*

Trinity Velazquez
Viewpoints Editor

The 2018-2019 school year has been one of the best years of my life. I honestly have never been as happy as I have been this year.

Not only have I had the honor of being the Viewpoints Editor my first year on the paper, but I also served as a Senator at Large in Student Government Association.

Because of these two positions, I have had a lot of opportunities to meet so many people. There is so much that I want to share, but I won't take up this whole page to try and summarize my year. So, I'll share a couple lessons that I learned during my time as both a senator and an editor.

My favorite lesson that I learned is to be unbiased. Be unbiased in everything and in everyone. I thought that I was always unbiased. I'm catholic but I support gay marriage, I support pro-life and pro-choice people, and I always love when people talk about their different religions.

Turns out, that doesn't make you an unbiased person, those things should come naturally because that is what a decent human being is.

Throughout my life, I felt that I had to choose a side in order to survive. I was in a constant state of going back and forth and believing one parent over the other because of the divorce. I chose someone when I should have chosen myself. I didn't realize this until I became the Viewpoints Editor.

I had to realize that I couldn't pick and choose what pieces go onto the student opinions page because it wasn't my personal page. It belongs to the students, it doesn't matter if I agree with the piece or not. Throughout the year the Viewpoints page has had some powerful opinion pieces and I have loved the responses, good and bad.

As a senator, I represent each and every student on campus. It doesn't matter who I look like or what language I speak, I am the voice of the students who feel like they don't have one. I'm not in Greek life so I don't know that world on campus, I just know that it's present.

I had to learn that just because I may not understand or know what goes on in certain areas or lives on campus doesn't mean that I get to disregard them.

I have to be unbiased, not just for my job, but for my own well-being. We all should, I see the world in a way I thought wasn't possible. To be unbiased is to be comfortable with being uncomfortable.

Another lesson I learned is being in a position of leadership is something that everyone can learn from. Leadership skills come naturally to a lot of people, but I am not one of those people. I had to grow in confidence and learn from my peers. Being in a leadership organization like SGA has given me a chance to see the background of how things operate.

People rely on their senators and sometimes expect things that we can't give them, but that doesn't mean that we wouldn't try.

There were moments where the responsibilities of both being in the Senate and on the Editorial Board seemed endless, but I reminded myself that I chose to be in these positions and I promised that I would serve them to the best of my ability.

I got overwhelmed a lot this year. The Current Sauce and SGA took up a huge portion of my life and sometimes I wondered if I was in over my head. I mixed up times and events sometimes and almost didn't complete my office hours one week because I became so busy in the Current Sauce office.

I doubted myself a lot, I started to believe that I didn't deserve to be where I was and that there were better people that could do my job. And that's probably true, but no one would do it like me.

I helped build a bridge between student government and the media, and that is something that I'm really proud of.

I think he most important lesson is the one I learned about myself, and that is that I have potential.

The student body saw it in me when they voted for me, Jacob Bennett saw it in me when he asked if I wanted to be Viewpoints Editor, and after looking back on what I've done this year I finally see it in myself.

We all have potential, it takes a while to see it and others may see it before we do, but each of us has the ability to do something great. I hope that we all see the potential in ourselves one day.

So, as I wrap up this year I hope I remember everything that I've learned, and I hope whoever reads this does as well.

Be unbiased, be a leader, and believe in yourself. I already do.

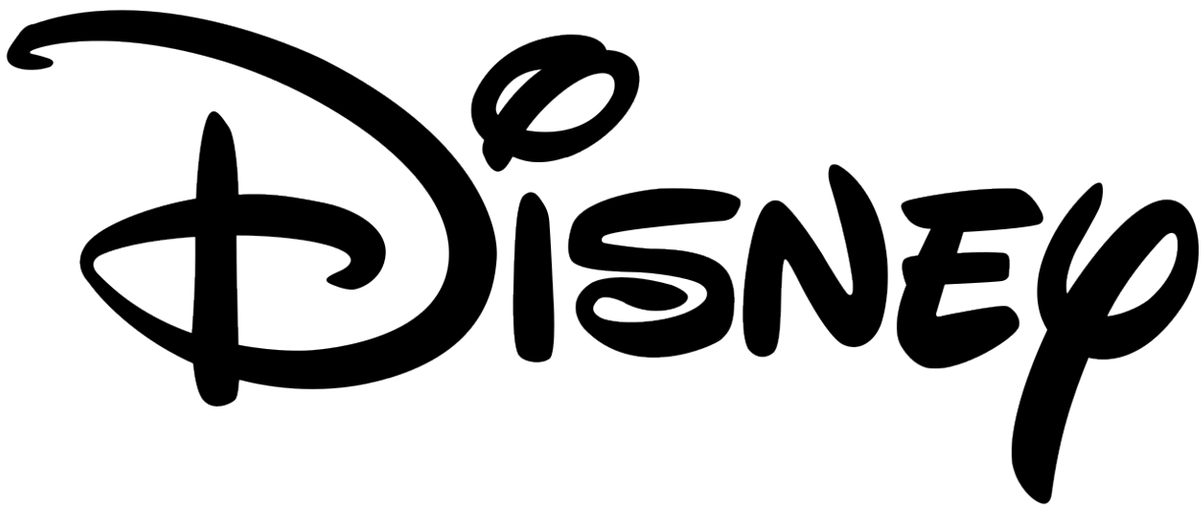


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.com.

Is Disney really a happy place?

John Lee Hurt
Contributing Writer

The Disney corporation recently made news again but not for buying out yet another company. The Disney heiress Abigail Disney called out the Disney CEO for how much he makes per year. Leaving many to question how happy of a place it really is.

In 2018 the CEO earned $65.6 million dollars. Being a Disney fanatic that pay still surprised me. Bob Iger, the CEO, reportedly makes over 1,000x what the lower wage employees make according to Abigail. Some people have done the math on what he makes per year and he makes $8 a second. Ridiculous if you ask me.

Over the years I've been very vocal against a $15/h minimum wage and still am but Disney is the exception to the rule. Disney Cast Members work extremely hard and follow some tough rules such as the famous two finger point. They insure the place is spotless, well stocked and absolutely magical. They deserve a very livable wage. One extremely that Disney goes to is constant nightly repaints. Imagine having to repaint the same thing every night for bupkis pay. I'd be disgruntled too!

Also according to Disney employees are living in cars and rationing food and insulin. How come such a billion dollar company can't offer better insurance? If they even offer any. I'm sure too Disney throws out food too so they should let the employees take it home.

I wrote this to caution you before working there as an intern. I still am a Disney fan and will still go but it left a distaste in my mouth. Hopefully soon Bob Iger will scale down his pay and up the pay of others.

GAME SCHEDULE

Softball

5/3/19 4:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Central Arkansas

5/3/19 6:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Central Arkansas

5/4/19 1:00 p.m.
@Lady Demon Diamond
vs. Central Arkansas

Tennis

5/3/19
@Campus Sites, NCAA 1st and 2nd Rounds

5/4/19
@Campus Sites, NCAA 1st and 2nd Rounds

5/5/19
@Campus Sites, NCAA 1st and 2nd Rounds

Baseball

5/3/19 6:30 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Grambling

5/4/19 2:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Grambling

5/5/19 1:00 p.m.
@Brown-Stroud Field
vs. Grambling

Track and Field

5/3/19
@Walter P. Ledet Track Complex, Southland Conference Championships

5/3/19
@Walter P. Ledet Track Complex, Southland Conference Championships

5/3/19
@Walter P. Ledet Track Complex, Southland Conference Championships

5/5/19
@Walter P. Ledet Track Complex, Southland Conference Championships

5/4/19
@Walter P. Ledet Track Complex, Southand Conference Championships

5/5/19
@Walter P. Ledet Track Complex, Southland Conference Championships

Ishmael Lane reflects on past, looks to future

Kathleen Hilliard
Reporter



#20 forward/center basketball player Ishmael Lane dunks the ball in the net in a game against University of Central Arkansas. *Photo by Charlie Blalock.*

Ishmael Lane has been involved in basketball since he first started at Northwestern four years ago, and has since created a career as a star basketball player.

"Three words I would say describe him as a person would be a fine young man, a dedicated young man, very responsible," said basketball coach Mike McConathy. McConathy has coached Lane since he first started at NSU.

"I'll remember his growth as a young man. That he listened to what coaches were telling him, and the light came on and he became a very dominant player. He's one of the top five players I've seen since I've been here at Northwestern," said McConathy. McConathy has been a head coach at Northwestern for 18 seasons.

Ishmael Lane has made an impact on those that he played with along with those who knew him in the athletics department.

"Lots of people are blessed with ability. Not too many work hard enough to refine that ability into skill, and even fewer realize that working smart, and hard, is what provides the good athlete the opportunity to become great. Ishmael understood that," said Assistant Athletic Director/Sports Information Director Doug Ireland.

Basketball has always been a part of Ishmael Lane's life.

"All my life, but I've been playing basketball since I was eight years old, in my driveway," said Lane when asked how long. The athlete spoke about how the best parts of basketball are winning, the integrity, and most importantly the brotherhood.

"It's amazing how quickly you bond as brothers on the court, and off of it," said Lane. Lane's friendships on the courts are only part of his support system that he said helped him through his career. "I'd say my biggest supporters are my mom, my grandma, my family, and my coaches before college because they saw my growth," said Lane. Lane also mentioned how his hometown of Port Allen, Louisiana, supports him. They keep track of his stats, and congratulate him and encourage him when he goes home.

After graduation on May 10, 2019, Lane says he wants to continue his basketball career and go out for the NBA and play professionally.

At Northwestern, Lane recently was awarded first-team Academic All-Southland Conference Status. "I'm going to say my proudest accomplishment was that Defensive Player of the Year. I wasn't expecting that, honestly," said Lane when asked what accomplishment he was proudest of.

"God blessed him with a lot of athletic ability and determination and the drive that it takes to be successful in anything, whether it be academics or athletics," said McConathy.

McConathy and Lane both said that he was a dedicated and motivated person on the court.

When asked about what he'd say to future players, Lane had some advice that he had been given when he started basketball. "Advice that I'd give to anyone wanting to play basketball would be to work hard, don't get comfy at the level you're at, and remember that there's always someone better than you. That's one thing that always stuck with me."

Home run derby part of Lady Demons' DH vs. Prairie View

Matt Vines
Assistant Director of Communications

NATCHITOCHES -- Northwestern State is tied for the Southland Conference lead in home runs, but it'll be fans and students swinging for the fences Tuesday at Lady Demon Diamond following the 2 p.m. doubleheader against Prairie View A&M.

NSU (24-24) is hosting its Fork Cancer Home Run Derby with a portion of the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

Adults get five swings for $10 and kids 12-and-under get five swings for $5. Fans can register online at nsudemons.com or beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the stadium and will stop in the fifth inning of the final game. Payment can be cash or credit card.

"It's pretty cool knowing that baseball has a home run derby at the (Southland Conference Tournament), so it's cool that we get to have our own one here," St. Clair said. "It'll be our community participating, and I think it'll be fun to watch."

Sophomore Cayla Jones (seven home runs) and freshman Alexis Perry (six home runs) lead the way for a Lady Demons' squad that's belted 31 homers this season.

Perry is part of a freshman power surge that includes Riley Cantrell (four homers), Maggie Black (four homers) and Marissa Reed (one home run). Freshman have accounted for 15 of the 31 dingers.

Tuesday's opponent Prairie View A&M is also no stranger to the long ball as Laurisa Hernandez has hit nine this season on a team that has 25 home runs.

The Lady Panthers (27-12) lead the Southwestern Athletic Conference with a 14-2 regular season mark one season after winning the league tournament title and making an NCAA Tournament appearance.

"We're excited to be back home and participate in a cool event like the Fork Cancer Home Run Derby," said NSU coach Donald Pickett. "We hope people turn out for that and also come watch us take on a really good Prairie View team."

NSU to take Louisiana Tech tornado relief donations at Tuesday ball game

Jason Pugh
Assistant Sports Information Director

NATCHITOCHES – The Northwestern State Athletics Department will collect donations for the Ruston tornado recovery at Tuesday night's baseball game between the Demons and Louisiana Tech.

Louisiana Tech's campus and the city of Ruston sustained devastating damage from a tornado that hit in the early morning hours of April 25, resulting in five total casualties and widespread damage to the city and several of Louisiana Tech's athletic facilities.

All donations throughout Tuesday's game, which begins at 6 p.m., will go toward disaster relief at Louisiana Tech.

Additionally, the Demons will fly the Louisiana Tech flag alongside the American and Louisiana flags behind the outfield wall in a show of solidarity as the Louisiana Tech community rebuilds and recovers from the storm's damage.

Northwestern State Student-Athlete Advisory Committee members will accept cash donations at the gate leading into the stadium throughout Tuesday night's game. All proceeds from concessions sales at the game also will be donated to the relief effort as well.

Prior to the game, a contingent of Northwestern State leaders – President Dr. Chris Maggio, Director of Athletics Greg Burke, Student Government Association President Jacob Ellis, head baseball coach Bobby Barbier and Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey – will make a presentation to Louisiana Tech Director of Athletics Tommy McClelland, a former two-sport NSU letterman, and head coach Lane Burroughs, who skippered Northwestern State from 2013-16.

For those who are unable to make it to Brown-Stroud Field on Tuesday night or who may not have cash on hand to donate, Louisiana Tech has set up a donation portal on its website, which can be accessed at ltu.al/disasterrelief.

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